

*Hafa Adai!*

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 90

SATURDAY APRIL 16, 2011

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Do you agree that there is a present need to re-examine the political relationship between the Commonwealth and the United States?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
to cast your vote.

## INSIDE



### Defiant Gadhafi

Moammar Gadhafi rolls defiantly through the streets of Tripoli.

WORLD...Page 11



### Tech Savvy

Kindergarten classes are supplementing crayons with iPads.

YOUNGSTYLE...Page 18



### Oldest Man

World's oldest man, Walter Breuning, dies in Montana at 114.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

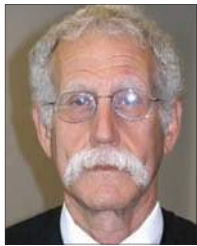
Red Cross Walkathon raises \$52K. **PAGE 2**  
9th Circuit affirms Pelisamen's conviction. **PAGE 3**

## Judge stays power poles in Marpi

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Only two more power poles need to be installed in Marpi for the project to be nearly done but a Superior Court judge ordered the CNMI government yesterday to temporarily stop the project in response to a request by a concerned group.

In a hearing that lasted almost two hours, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted the Friends of Marpi's motion for a temporary restraining order to momentarily stop the CNMI government from installing more power



Govendo

See **JUDGE** on **Page 4**

### WITHOUT POWER RATE INCREASE:

## CUC will return to the 'bad old days'; warns of federal takeover

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

If the proposed power rate hikes are not approved, the islands would return to the "bad old days" of massive power outages, according to officials and consultants of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., based on separate petitions filed with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

CUC consultant economist.com also hints at a possible federal takeover as a worst-case scenario if the power rate hike proposals are rejected. In its opinion, "CUC's need for a rate increase is so obvious as to be beyond dispute."

CUC is asking the commission to allow it to increase both its electric base rate and levelized energy adjustment clause rate, effective this month and next, to pay for anticipated fuel costs, raise funds for stipulated order projects, and use for other CUC operational expenses.

See **CUC** on **Page 4**



## HUNDREDS TAKE TIME TO CLEAN UP SAIPAN

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Amid sweltering heat, hundreds of government and private sector personnel, along with their families, spent an hour or two yesterday to help clean up Saipan of litter—from water bottles to soda and beer cans, plastic wrappers, cigarette butts and

cardboards, to name a few.

Hundreds more will clean up tourist spots, beach sites, major roadways, and other public facilities today as part of the two-day islandwide cleanup. The event forms part of Environmental Awareness Month activities in April.

Joe Kaipat, chair of the 2011 Islandwide Cleanup, said the event is a great way to see the island and its beauty. See **HUNDREDS** on **Page 4**

Acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar picks up trash near the Capital Hill baseball field yesterday afternoon as part of the 2011 islandwide cleanup in observance of Environmental Awareness Month.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



# Local

## Red Cross Walkathon raises \$52K; draws over 2.5K walkers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter raised about \$52,000 after expenses from the successful and fun-filled 25th Annual Red Cross Walkathon held in April.

Some 1,950 individuals submitted pledge forms and received shirts, refreshments, and first aid kits while over 2,500 attended the annual event, which is a big fundraiser for the local chapter of the international premier emergency response organization.

The local Red Cross office

also announced the schools, organizations, students and other participants that won exciting prizes under the walkathon's different categories.

The schools with the largest number of donation were San Antonio Elementary School, first place, \$4,977.31; William S. Reyes Elementary School, second place, \$4,324.66; and Oleai Elementary School, third place, \$3,923.79.

The schools with the most number of walkers were William S. Reyes Elementary School, first place, 217 walk-

ers; San Antonio Elementary School, second place, 195; and Oleai Elementary School, third place, 184.

Individual students with largest number of donation collected were Jessica Soll of Saipan International School, \$734; Jason Briones of San Antonio Elementary School, \$669.33; Jo Micah Cabrera of Grace Christian Academy, \$669; Deveney M. Dela Cruz of Marianas High School, \$641.03; Nathan Tan of SIS, \$516; Alannah Mae C. Sablan of San Antonio Elementary School, \$480.47; and Es-

ther Sum Young Lee of Calvary Christian Academy, \$345.

For non-students, the winners were Gregorio P. Sablan, grand prize; Francisca B. Manibusan, first place; Marcie Tomokane,

second place; Xing Xuebin, Braddock Huesman, and Christopher Tummons, third place.

Fiesta Resort & Spa won the Group/Corporate category while Bank of Hawaii bagged the Water/Aid Station.

NMI Chapter executive di-

rector John Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune* that the presentation of prizes, which include donations from various businesses like lunch certificates, movie tickets, and water park and go kart passes, will be held sometime next week.

## 27th Attorneys General Cup speech contest on April 28

High school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will meet and compete in the 27th Annual Attorneys General Cup on April 28, 2011, at 8:30am in the Supreme Court courtroom.

The Attorneys General Cup kicks off National Law Week, which is held May 2 through 6, and is a series of events and activities at the Guma' Hustisia that aim to promote students' understanding of the rule of law. The Cup was started by Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro while he was the attorney general in the mid-'80s. Through the dedicated efforts of then attorney general Castro and the attorneys general who succeeded him, the event has continued as an important and prestigious competition that fosters critical thinking and public speaking among the islands' youth.

"It's our privilege to continue the Cup again this year," said current Attorney General Ed Buckingham.

As with last year, judges will

be those who have formally held the position of attorney general for the Commonwealth. Judges this year will include founder Castro, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, former presiding judge Edward Manibusan, former associate judge Herbert D. Soll, and former AGs Pamela S. Brown, Matthew T. Gregory, Rexford Kosack, and Buckingham.

"It is an honor to hold the Cup in trust for the students, the future leaders of our Commonwealth," said Castro.

The competition brings together some of the finest young minds to debate crucial issues affecting the islands. As a result, topics have often proved controversial and this year's topic is no exception:

*With the signing of the Covenant with the United States, the People of the CNMI decided to become a Commonwealth instead of an independent country. With that decision, the United States gained control over*

*some decision-making powers that normally would exist if the CNMI had been independent. Should the CNMI consider becoming an independent country or remain a Commonwealth of the United States? Please analyze and discuss the impact of your proposed decision—both positive and negative.*

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will address the contestants and Rita C. Chong, the 1986 winner from Marianas High School, will give the inspirational remarks. John Gonzales and Liz Wahl have volunteered to perform hosting duties for the event.

The 27th Attorneys General Cup Speech Competition is open to the public and is being sponsored by the Office of the Attorney General, CNMI Bar Association, and the Judiciary. Monetary and in-kind donations from elected leaders and the private sector have greatly contributed to the success of the competition. (*Office of the Governor*)

## Restaurant 360 to host cocktail party, raffle fundraiser

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Restaurant 360, Micronesia's only revolving restaurant, hosts a fundraising event to help in the relief efforts for the victims of the devastating temblor and tsunami in Japan.

"Japan Tsunami Relief Effort: Cocktail Party and Raffle Fundraiser" is scheduled tonight, April 16, from 6pm to 9pm, at 360's location atop Marianas Business Plaza.

The fundraising event has a \$10 cover charge, which includes a delectable buffet of pupus or appetizers and one

raffle ticket, which gives you a chance to win various exciting prizes.

These include dinner certificates at 360, hotel accommodations, wines and premium beers, Greg Elliott paintings, and two round-trip tickets to Guam.

Additional raffle tickets are available for only \$1 each.

Restaurant diners can avail of a 10-percent discount on all food items on the menu.

Funds raised from cover charges and raffle tickets will be donated to the relief efforts, including 10 percent of food tabs and \$1 for every alcoholic beverage purchased.

The management of Restaurant 360 said the Japanese market is one of their main customers at the revolving restaurant.

"What happened to Japan was a major catastrophe. The whole world is helping them and we want to do our part in our own small way. We expect to have the community support this event for a good cause," they told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sponsors for the event include BFJ Corp., Fly Guam, Greg Elliott, Marianas Business Plaza, Pacific Islands Club, and Restaurant 360.

For information or reservations, call 234-3600.



# 9th Annual NMC Foundation Open

An event to benefit higher education in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Continental Airlines

**Saturday, April 30th, 2011 LaoLao Bay West Course**  
Show Time 6:00 a.m. / Shotgun start 7:00 a.m.  
Ladies flight, Senior flight, Men's Championship, A, B, & C flights

**PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY:**  
1st Prize \$500 2nd Prize \$300 3rd Prize \$200  
First prize includes round trip airfare ticket to anywhere Continental flies in Asia & Micronesia. Closest to the pin "KP" wins cash + \$100 worth of gas - Shell/IP&E

Over \$80,000 in Possible Prizes

**Hole in One Prizes**  
Hole #13 - \$25,000 - Aon Insurance  
Hole #17 - 2011 Hyundai Tucson GL\* - Triple J Motors



**Registration Fee \$95**  
Maximum 120 players  
Limited slots available  
First come, first serve

**For Registration & Payment:**  
NMC Cashier's Office  
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort  
Triple J Motors



**Aon**



**DIAL**



**McDonald's**



**ToothWorks**



**IR**



**CHONG'S**



**SCS**



**docomo**



**Tan Siu Lin Foundation**

All Star Sporting Goods  
Aon Insurance  
American Red Cross  
Aqua Resort  
Avis Rent-A-Car  
Bank Pacific  
Budget Rent-A-Car  
Capricciossa  
Caronel Watch Center  
Chong's Corporation

Coral Ocean Point  
Continental Airlines  
Country House  
D&S Construction  
DFS Galleria  
Dial Rent-to-Own  
Docomo Pacific  
First Hawaiian Bank  
G4S Security  
Gold's Gym

Gree Air Conditioner  
Hard Rock Cafe'  
Hollywood Theaters  
Horizon  
Hotel Riviera  
Hyatt Regency  
Islander Car Rental  
Luen Fung Enterprises  
Marianas Variety  
McDonald's

Mita Travel  
National Office Supply  
Open Choice Dental Insurance Company  
Rota Resort & Country Club  
Saipan Computer Services  
Saipan Tribune  
Seabridge  
Shell Marianas  
Star Sands Plaza  
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Taro Sue Store  
Tasi Tours  
Tony Roma's  
Tooth Works  
Triple J Motors  
Tropical Blends Spa  
Truong's  
Y's Enterprise, LLC



Certain restrictions apply to some of the prizes. Please contact NMC at 234-5498 ext. 1502 for more information. \* Actual prize vehicle may not be exactly as shown.

Contact Northern Marianas College  
at (670) 234-5498, Ext 1050 or  
Email: nmc@nmcnet.edu



## 9th Circuit affirms conviction of ex-estate administrator Pelisamen

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the federal court's conviction of former estate administrator Luis Kaipat Pelisamen for unlawful use of the estate's funds.

The Ninth Circuit ruled that there was no "plain error that

affected defendant's substantial rights" that could have affected the fairness, integrity, or public reputation of the judicial proceedings.

The Ninth Circuit concluded that the other bases of Pelisamen's appeal are without merit.

Judge A. Wallace Tashima penned the decision. Judges William A. Fletcher and Marsha

## 3 key posts unfilled at HPO

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Three key positions at the Historic Preservation Office, a division under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, are currently unfilled as a result of the government's budget constraints.

The vacancies are the division's director, an archaeologist, and a historian—all key toward meeting the goal's of the agency, which is to maintain and preserve the islands' cultural history and artifacts, among others.

In the absence of permanent historian and archeologist, the agency has been and will continue to tap professional service contracts, said DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao yesterday.

The director's position is expected to be filled soon through a governor's appointment.

Faisao said the agency continues to seek qualified applicants for its vacancies.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the division's only historian, Ronnie Rogers, is set to leave on April 20. DCCA is now looking for his replacement, according to Faisao. Rogers has served the division for five years.

Also, a new HPO board is being formed, Faisao said. It will be composed of Dr. Hiro Kurashina, Fr. Francis Hezel, Dr. Colt Denfield, Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei, Jesus Elameto,

Francisco M. Diaz, Tom Glen Quitugua, and Antonio Borja.

Faisao also disclosed that, in consideration of the important role of the agency, the department has been identified as among the agencies that are exempted from austerity measure since March this year. He did not elaborate.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that with key positions remaining unfilled, the division may lose federal grants, particularly from the National Park Service, or have those amounts reduced.

HPO has received a total of \$7.3 million from the Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service since 1979.

Faisao said yesterday that HPO has submitted its grant applications and is awaiting a response from the granting agency.

The Historic Preservation Offices of the Pacific area territories and the Freely Associated States are annually appropriated Historic Preservation Fund grants pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act for protection and preservation of National Register eligible historic properties and National Historical Landmarks. Financial assistance extended to the CNMI and the other territories does not require matching share. In fiscal year 2010, grants received by the three Pacific area territories totaled \$1.2 million.

S. Berzon concurred.

"We hold that the 'money or property' fraud conviction remains valid," the judges said.

Pelisamen used to serve as administrator of the estate of his grandmother, Rita Kaipat, which received a \$1.37 million in distribution.

In January 2008, both Pelisamen and his then counsel, Joseph A. Arriola, were indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, one count of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, and two counts of money laundering.

The money laundering

charges were based on the issuance of two separate checks to the car dealership for Pelisamen's new car.

Pelisamen was convicted on all counts. He was sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay \$625,775 in restitution.

Arriola pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of wire fraud. He was sentenced to four years and 10 months in prison and ordered jointly with Pelisamen to pay the estate \$625,775.

After Pelisamen's conviction, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in the Skilling v. United

States case, in which it held that the honest-services fraud is unconstitutionally vague when applied to conduct other than bribery and kickbacks.

Pelisamen, through counsel Douglas Cushnie, appealed to the Ninth Circuit, citing the high court's decision in the Skilling case. Pelisamen argued that the Skilling case renders the jury's verdict in his case constitutionally infirm.

The Ninth Circuit judges said, however, that the U.S. Supreme Court recently held that the offense of honest-services fraud codified at 18 U.S.C. § 1346 is unconstitutionally vague when

applied to conduct other than bribery and kickbacks.

The judges said that, as there were no bribes or kickbacks alleged, the incorporation of honest-services fraud into the jury instructions and jury verdict form was plainly erroneous under Skilling's ruling.

The next question, the judge said, is whether the error affected substantial rights, which in most cases is an inquiry into whether it was "prejudicial"—that is, whether it "affected the outcome of the trial court proceedings."

"We answer that question in the negative. Defendant's wire fraud conviction is not dependent on his conviction under an honest-services theory," the judges said.

In Pelisamen's case, the judges said, the allegation is that the defendant's actions directly deprived Rita Kaipat's other heirs of their money.

## Youth Congress inauguration today

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Newly elected members of the CNMI Youth Congress are scheduled to take their oaths of office today in front of families, elected leaders, and members of the community at the legislative building on Capital Hill.

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP-Reyes said yesterday that everything is ready for the occasion.

"All elected officials, other government dignitaries, and members of the public are invited to the event. Security measures will be in place to include screening prior to entering the building," said Palacios.

The legislative building will be open to the public starting at 9am today. Fr. Ryan Jimenez will be delivering the invocation and benediction.

Palacios said Chief Justice Miguel Demapan will be honoring the senators-elect by administering the oath of office, while the Marianas High School JROTC will carry out the posting of colors and the singing of the U.S. and Commonwealth anthems.

Seven youth senators were elected in this year's Youth Congress election. They are Grace Christian Academy's Angela Faith Mamari, Saipan Southern High School's Shelane Borja, Kagman High School's Mercedes Mesa, Tinian Jr./Sr. High

School's Marquina Hofschneider, Marianas High School's Audrey Joy Ada, Rota High School's Thomas Barcinas, and Marianas Baptist Academy's Manatsu Omori.

A total of 1,126 students registered for this year's election; only 313 cast their ballots. This translates to a 28-percent turnout.

The voters' turnout in seven schools was: Kagman High, 24; MHS, 97; Rota High School, 46; SSHS, 67; Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, 24; GCA, 30; and MBA, 25.

The Youth Congress, created through PL 8-27, seeks to provide a system that allows the youth to make recommendations to policymakers on youth programs.

**CLEARANCE SALE!**  
**50% OFF**  
**ALL ITEMS**  
**MARANATHA**  
*Christian Store*  
**after San Jose Hotel**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday-Sunday**  
**7am - 6pm**  
**Call: 235-1656**

## Treat yourself sweet!



McCafé Wild Berry Smoothie

McCafé Strawberry Banana Smoothie

McCafé Mocha Frappé

McCafé Caramel Frappé

## BUY ONE, GET ONE.

Buy a large McCafé Frappé or Smoothie and get the second one **FREE!**  
For limited time only.

**G** on behalf of Antonio Suda Kapileo, Jr., his wife, Ida and their children, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the following people for their raffle donations to the recent "Happy Hour Fundraiser" at the Garapan Central Park.

Advanced Exterminix, Atdit - Eric Palacios, Choke Chain - Peter Sablan, Dwayne Davis, Fotten Gaga, Island Equipment Rental, Joe's Bar & Grill, Joey Dela Cruz, John Cepeda, Kulan Yamu - Vinnie Sablan, Marianas Pacific - James Fleming, Marpac - Melvin Tenorio, Motion Auto, Charlie & Antonette Calvo, Ignacio & Doris Celis, Mr. Lee, Poksu - Angel Demapan, RyVo Upgrade Technology - Ryan Calvo, Saipan Sea, Ventures, Seahorse, P. Thomson, Wild Bill's, Marvin & Gina DLG, Parker Yobei, JJ Norita, Nolas Kaliga, Local Boys, David & Rose Ayuyu, Leo Duenas and Pacific Basin

A very big and sincere THANK YOU to our families and friends and those we failed to mention who bought tickets, attended the fundraiser, those of you who were gracious enough to donate money and food, and those who worked so hard that day helping to cook, serve and clean up. We could not have done it without you.

**THANK YOU, SI YU'US MA'ASE,  
GHILISOU, KINISOU CHAPUR,  
MARAMING SALAMAT, KAMSAMIDA**



**STORE HOURS:** Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM • Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS. DAILY (24/7)  
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: mcdonalds@pticom.com



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Hot Dog Walk today

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be hosting a Hot Dog Walk today, April 16, 2011, at the Last Command Post in Marpi in celebration of Autism Awareness Month. The walk will start at 3pm and hotdogs and drinks will be available for all participants.

All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism-related spectrum disorders are invited to take part. More information, call 235-7274 or email as\_cnmi@yahoo.com. **(ASCNMI)**

### USS Pasadena makes second visit to Saipan

The USS *Pasadena*, a 110.5-meter long Los Angeles class submarine with 12 officers and 98 men, arrived on Saipan yesterday morning. The USS *Pasadena* last visited Saipan in 2007. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce was represented at the onboard arrival briefing and is looking at hosting a welcome reception for the officers and crew early next week. Please help us continue to build our reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to our islands. The USS *Pasadena* is scheduled to depart in the middle of next week. **(SCC)**

### Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- April 18, from 9am to 9:30pm
- April 19, from 9am to 9:30pm
- April 20, from 8:30am to 9pm
- April 21, from 8:30am to 10:30pm
- April 22, from 11am to 2:30pm

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla

training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(USN)**

### THS JROTC Easter Service Learning

The Tinian High School Stallion Battalion JROTC conducted an Easter Service Learning for kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students at the Tinian Elementary School on April 11, 13, and 15, 2011. There were different groups for each day. The cadets did various activities with the kids including egg decorating, basket making, coloring, and an Easter Egg Hunt. All three days ended successfully, and the students had a lot of fun. Mega Hooah to the Stallion Battalion! **(PR)**

### Info on planned buildup projects in Guam now available

Information regarding the military relocation to Guam's proposed construction projects for fiscal year 2012 are now available on the Cultural Resources Information (CRI) website at <http://bit.ly/NAVFAC-GuamPA>.

Those without internet access can get a written description of each project and a mail-in comment form from the Guam Historic Resources Division, located at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, 96910 (across from the U.S. Naval Regional Hospital).

Comments on the identification and evaluation of historic properties within specific project footprints will be accepted for 45 calendar days after each project is posted. The comment deadline for the Finegayan Water Utilities project, P-2048, is May 31, 2011. **(USN)**

### Bangladeshi community marks New Year

The Bangladeshi community on Saipan will be celebrating the Bengali New Year today, April 16, 2010, at Kili Beach, from 9am to 7pm. Led by the Bangladesh Cultural Group, Saturday's celebration of the Bangla New

Year marks the entry of the year 1418 (Shovo Nobo Borsho) under the Bengali calendar.

There will be activities for children and adults, food, cultural programs, prizes, and free health and eye check-up. The whole community is invited to join the Bangladesh community and celebrate the new life, bright future, and another year of happiness on this day. For more information, call BCG

president Rokibul Islam (Mintu) at 483-4448. **(PR)**

### OPA staff on Tinian, Rota next week

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Tinian on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, and on Rota on Friday, April 29, 2011, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government of-

starting at 2pm yesterday.

"We should all do this at least once a year," he said, picking up a big cardboard box in front of Kristo Rai Church. "We should keep our island clean. We want visitors to see a clean and beautiful island."

Around 2:30pm, Department of Public Health employees were getting ready for the cleanup, with blue trash bags and latex gloves in tow.

Going up Capital Hill, acting special assistant for CNMI Homeland Security Marvin K. Seman and others were picking up trash by the roadside.

In and around the Capital Hill baseball field was acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar and his staff's turf for the cleanup.

"We picked up mostly empty soda and beer cans, candy wrappers, plastic bags. We're just picking up what we can see. The message I want to share is that people should learn how to care for the environment and not throw trash everywhere," he said, adding that it was his first time to take part in an islandwide cleanup.

Commerce's Douglas Palacios and Yubert Alepuyo, who were also outside the Capital Hill baseball field, said they're happy to contribute to the cleanup.

Some 30 personnel from the Department of Public Safety and Department of Corrections picked up litter from Minatchom Atdao to Quarter Master Road.

Most of those who joined yesterday's cleanup were from government agencies, based on a list provided yesterday by DEQ.

Officials. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Gaming Control Commission Conference Room on April 27, from 9am to 4:30pm. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office on April 29, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. **(OPA)**

They included the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., DPH, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., OPM, DEQ, DOC/DPS, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Department of Public Lands, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas College Enro Club, NMC Chamorro Cultural Club, Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, and Commerce.

Private sector entities in yesterday's cleanup were Marianas Water Works Corp., D&Q Saipan, McDonald's-Chalan Lauaul, and Pacific Oriental Inc., based on the DEQ list.

Mostly private sector entities, along with school clubs, will be doing their part for the environment today.

They include Fiesta Resort & Spa, PDM Promoters Inc., *Saipan Tribune* and the rest of the Adopt-A-Pavilion Team, McDonald's-Garapan, Century Tours, Gela & Friends Production, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness, World Resort Saipan, NMI Badminton Association, Saipan Grand Hotel, Saipan Unity Lions Club, CTSI Logistics, Life in Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Troop 913 Boy Scouts of America, Saipan Southern High School Youth Environment Ambassadors Club, Chacha Junior High School Honor Society, and Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

DEQ's Kaipat said they have not received a list of volunteers from Rota and Tinian this year, but is hoping that residents will be able to do their part.

## CUC

From Page 1

The commission was expected to decide on the petitions last night.

According to CUC consultant economists.com, rejection of the proposed rate hikes will severely jeopardize CUC's ability to continue to exist as an independent agency.

In its April 5 testimony, CUC said it will be unable to secure any long-term loan before May 2012 at the earliest, and in all likelihood much later.

Therefore, without the increase, "CUC will return to the 'old bad days' of under-financing repairs and maintenance, which will lead to a reduction in the quality of service and deterioration in the condition of CUC's major assets," said economists.com representatives Dan Jackson and Robert Young in their report.

CUC will also continue to fail to meet compliance deadlines under stipulated order mandates, they added.

In a worst-case scenario, they said, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will conclude that CUC is unable to govern itself or be properly regulated and will take immediate steps to place CUC into receivership.

"CUC has made a compelling case to the EPA through multiple interim

financial plan [IFP] submissions that it requires the expenses and revenue adjustment outlined in its application to the [commission]. Any receiver appointed to manage CUC is likely to implement severe rate increases to fund this and other capital requirements and to ensure that CUC has adequate cash flow and reserves," the consultants said.

The commission's own consultant, Georgetown Consulting, had disputed these arguments. Georgetown cited several items that need to be adjusted in place of the proposed rate hike.

According to CUC deputy director for power systems rehabilitation, Wallon Young Fong, further delay in the maintenance of power facilities would have a disastrous effect in the long run.

"I am very concerned that CUC will go back to the bad old days of deferred maintenance, just when we survived the engine failure crises of 2008-'09 where we were unable to generate sufficient power. I believe that any further policy to defer maintenance would be catastrophic," said Fong in his April 11 petition.

The Fitial administration recently lifted the emergency declaration for CUC, citing the many improvements and progress made by the utilities firm. CUC was placed under a state of emergency in August 2008.

## JUDGE

From Page 1

poles in Marpi.

Govendo ordered that the remaining poles not be installed and that electric wires should not be connected until a full blown evidentiary hearing is done.

The evidentiary hearing will be held on April 29 at 9am.

Govendo said he granted the TRO because constitutional rights should be taken into consideration.

"It doesn't mean it will continue forever. After the evidentiary hearing maybe there will be no more hearing," the judge said.

The judge directed the Office of the Attorney General to file pleadings in response to the complaint and other pleadings filed yesterday by attorney David Banes, who represents Friends of Marpi, former House representative Christina Marie Sablan, Suzy Kindle, Glen Hunter, and Ruth Tighe.

Banes pointed out that the lawsuit is to preserve the Marpi area from destructive development as it is an historic and scenic landmark. The U.S. government has recognized the significance of the site, registering it as a national historic landmark, he added.

Banes said the CNMI government installed the power poles without a public hearing and without considering

preserving the historic, scenic, and cultural value of the site.

An alternative power supply was not considered, and even the Marianas Visitors Authority issued a letter opposing the project, the lawyer said.

"Yet they [CNMI government] have the courage to do that," Banes said.

He said the CNMI government was asked to voluntarily suspend the project until representatives from the National Park Service—scheduled to arrive on Saipan on April 18—are here to inspect the project but again the government refused.

Banes said that Sablan had proposed solar panels instead of power poles, but there was no response, no courtesy telephone call, and no courtesy email.

"They just installed the power poles," Banes said.

Responding to a question by Govendo, assistant attorney general Gil Birnrich said two more poles need to be installed but this could be delayed for two months because of the mating season of a certain bird species in the area.

Under the project, 43 power poles are to be installed from the Veterans Cemetery and Public Cemetery near Banzai Cliff to the main road and on to the Buddhist temple.

Birnrich said there is no legal basis to grant the TRO. He said that CRM held a public hearing about the cem-

etry project in Marpi in 2004.

Govendo asked if the power poles were discussed at that public hearing and if there was publicity about the project, to which assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher replied that there was a public hearing because there was a public comment.

Gallagher said the blueprint of the cemetery project also indicated the power poles.

He said that stopping the project will cost the CNMI a lot of money as there is already a contract.

Gallagher said the plaintiffs are proceeding under a wrong theory and that there is no basis for granting the TRO.

Sablan, Hunter, and attorney Wesley Bogdan appeared at the hearing. Gallagher and Birnrich represented the government. CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher also appeared but the judge immediately excused her after she explained that CUC has nothing to do with the Marpi project.

The plaintiffs named as defendants the CNMI government, Coastal Resources Management, CRM director Rita Chong, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Office, Office of the Governor, Capital Improvements Projects Office, CIP director Virginia Villagomez, CUC, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.



# Juvenile Detention Unit to be transferred to Corrections

» **DYS to continue providing social services to detained youths**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The transfer of the Juvenile Detention Unit to the Department of Correction is all set, according to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

Faisao said the budget is the only reason for the delay, pending the Legislature's approval of the governor's budget plan for fiscal year 2012.

The Juvenile Detention Unit is currently under DCCA's Division of Youth Services.

With the anticipated transfer of the program, Faisao said 14 employees will be absorbed by Corrections. However, social workers who will continue to serve the detained youths will remain under DCCA's arm. A memorandum of agreement will be signed between DCCA and Corrections to this end.

Faisao said the Fitial administration wants the management of the juvenile detention facility transferred to Corrections to streamline administra-

tive functions.

Given the line of responsibilities associated with both the Juvenile Detention Unit and the

adult prison facility, the Fitial administration finds that placing both under the same authority would result in streamlining the

administrative needs of both facilities, he added.

The move will also be in line with the administration's objec-

tives to align related functions to allow departments to develop a more effective approach in providing services to the public.

According to Faisao, the Office of the Attorney General has completed the review and a proposed budget for the combined facilities has been included in the governor's budget plan.

The administration commissioned the Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. early this

year to do a desk audit on government agencies. The transfer of the management of the Juvenile Detention Unit to Corrections was among the recommendations.

DCCA currently is responsible for the detention unit while instructional services for detained youths is provided by the Public School System.

The detention unit accommodates five to 11 youths a year.

## Inos discusses nuclear response efforts of NMI at JMTC meeting

**TOKYO, Japan**—In an effort to ensure the safety of the residents and visitors of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos discussed Thursday how the CNMI government and the federal government are collectively working to address the public's concerns surrounding the potential impact to the CNMI and the rest of the United States from the Japan nuclear reactor crisis.

Inos disclosed the CNMI's efforts at the Japan Marianas Tourism Council meeting here in the presence of the Commonwealth's travel partners and tourism stakeholders. Inos and press secretary Angel A. Demapan joined MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and MVA managing director Perry P. Tenorio at the meeting.

"While there is no current health risk and no expectation of any future risk to the CNMI from the radioactive material releases, the local government will continue to exercise due diligence to ensure that everyone is safeguarded in the event increased activity occurs," said Inos.

On Tuesday, April 12, 2011,

the CNMI Nuclear Response Task Force received notification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that rainwater samples tested negative for any detection of radionuclides. This is an added precautionary measure the local government has taken in addition to the installation of the RadNet deployable monitoring device and the screening of inbound vessels, crew, passengers, and cargo at the ports of entry.

"As part of our efforts, we immediately established a Joint Multi-Agency Team for both the seaport and airport to ensure that inbound passengers and property—including banned food products—are adequately screened for radiological detection," said Inos. "To date, we have not detected any forms of contamination or radiological activity."

The CNMI Nuclear Response Task Force continues to work closely with local emergency response authorities and their respective counterparts at the federal government level to ensure that adequate monitoring is in effect at all times. (*Office of the Governor*)



### BIKE CLUB DONATION

The Mt. Tapochau Bike Club successfully hosted its inaugural mountain bike race event last Sunday, donating all race proceeds in the amount of \$800 to the NMI Japan Disaster Relief Organization. Shown here turning over the funds are Mieko Carey, Nick Nishikawa, Vince Seman, Yoichi Matsumura, and Jay Santos. With about 40 participants attending the event, it was an opportunity for cycling enthusiasts to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated northern Japan last month. Top Saipan rider Butch Sublemente took first place in the men's championship division. Coming off a recent XTERRA Guam victory, Mieko Carey showed she was still in winning form, nabbing the women's championship division. Cesar Fortaleza topped the sport course division.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## New \$300M pension obligation bond initiative

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Five months after voters rejected a pension obligation bond initiative, Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) pre-filed an almost similar proposal, this time with the hope to educate the public more about the importance of floating some \$300 million in bonds to pay the government's debt with the NMI Retirement Fund.

Other lawmakers have yet to see a copy of Deleon Guerrero's House Legislative Initiative 17-5 but this early, they said they will have to carefully review its impact on taxpayers and the pension system.

The CNMI Superior Court determined in June 2009 that the central government owes the Retirement Fund over \$231 million in unpaid employer's contributions. This has increased to over \$317 million as of November 2010.

"The amount to be floated should not exceed the government liability to the Retirement Fund," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero said he will lobby for the passage of his new initiative.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said he will again vote "yes" on the pension obligation bond. "The government needs money to pay its obligations," he said.

But Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), who voted "yes" on a similar initiative last year, said

he will have to "seriously look into" the proposal.

"I want to see what its impact would be on CNMI taxpayers especially those in the private sector who might say why do they have to be obligated to somehow pay for it. I know it will be good for the Retirement Fund, which will be prolonged by this money but how about for others? If this is free money, then I will definitely support it but it's not free," he said.

The House and the Senate passed a similar initiative last year, also introduced by Deleon Guerrero, only to be rejected by voters in the Nov. 2, 2010, elections.

Lawmakers and the Fitial administration believe that the defeat of the initiative was a result of lack of public education.

"So this time, we will make sure there's enough public education about it. I am also going to lobby for its passage by the

House and Senate. We will also try to see if we can have it in this year's special election," Deleon Guerrero added.

Other lawmakers said if the initiative is similar to what was already rejected last year, then it does not make sense to introduce another one.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) likened it to the Saipan casino initiative, which voters had already twice rejected.

But Yumul said if the defeat of last year's pension obligation bond initiative was really a result of a lack of information and understanding about the proposal, then he will again vote "yes" on the initiative.

The reintroduction of this initiative was one of the issues that the Fitial administration and the Legislature agreed on during their joint leadership meetings in January.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and

other lawmakers, however, said they have yet to read the new initiative so they could not say at this time whether they will vote yes or no.

The reintroduction of a pension obligation bond has two parts to it: The first step is to authorize the bond float by way of introducing the initiative and presenting it to voters.

Once voters approve it, the second part is to decide how much in pension obligation bond will be floated.

Deleon Guerrero reiterated that there's no concrete figure yet but it shall not exclude the government's debt to the Fund, so he said it should be around \$300 million.

The initiative says revenues generated from the issuance of pension obligation bonds can be repaid over time, as the bonds mature, thus lessening the immediate fiscal impact on the CNMI.

## Legislature to turn over \$3,758 for Japan disaster relief

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Lawmakers and the rest of the Legislature raised \$3,758.28 during the April 2 fundraising to help Japan recover from the March 11 quake and tsunami.

The Legislature set up a "prison" at the Join Us Help Japan fundraiser at the Garapan Fishing Base, and "put behind bars" individuals—including Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio—who were

released only after posting bail.

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP Reyes said the Legislature collected an additional \$74.60 since the last reporting, bringing the total collection to \$3,758.28.

She said the presentation of the fundraising proceeds will be on Tuesday at 10:30am in the House chamber.

Reyes said the check will be presented to Yoichi Matsumura of the NMI-Japan Disaster Relief organization and to Japan consul Tsutomu Higuchi.

During the rainy fundraising, senators, representatives, their staffers, and Legislative Bureau employees were on hand to guard the "prison" for a cause. They said this is a time to lend a helping hand to Japan, which has been a main driver of the CNMI economy.

The NMI-Japan Disaster Relief has raised some \$40,000, and some \$5,000 was raised during the April 2 "Join Us Help Japan" fundraiser. Another \$22,000 worth of in-kind donations was also raffled off during the event.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Tel. (670) 234-6886, 234-6447, 234-7699, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021  
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board is scheduled on **Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
- II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- III. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
  - a. CDBG Updates
- IV. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM**
  - a. USDA RD Matters
  - b. Other Loan Matters
- V. **ADJOURNMENT**

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCI M. TOMOKANE**  
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.



# Opinion

Hafa Adali

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXI, Issue No. 90Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Obama finally makes views clear

President Barack Obama finally joined the roiling debate about the role of government Wednesday, offering a deeply patriotic speech that cast the nation's greatness as intricately entwined with its commitment to care for the poor, sick and elderly. It was a relief to hear the president state so clearly, so unequivocally, that he would reject the pessimistic view of our nation's future offered in the House Republican budget last week.

Now, Obama's challenge is to match his rhetoric with his actions in the coming months.

The most heartening aspects of Obama's speech were the lines he drew after giving so much ground in recent months. He will refuse to renew the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy, he said. He will not allow Medicare to be turned into a voucher program. He will not sacrifice investments in education, energy and infrastructure.

And yet he laid out an aggressive deficit-reduction plan based on the notion of shared sacrifice that has defined America for generations. He called for \$4 trillion in savings during the next 12 years: two-thirds from spending cuts, savings on interest payments and the elimination of tax expenditures; and one-third from tax increases on the nation's most fortunate. He presented a realistic strategy to improve on the cost controls in his health care reform law—not merely shift costs from the government to individuals, as the GOP proposes.

The plan he offered was not perfect, and it's not likely to emerge from the legislative meat-grinder intact. But it is a balanced approach. It asks a little more from those who have benefited most from this nation's opportunities, in dramatic contrast with the Republican plan.

Obama hammered this contrast home in a blizzard of criticism of GOP priorities.

"As Ronald Reagan's own budget director said, there's nothing 'serious' or 'courageous' about this plan," he said, deriding the GOP proposal for requiring sacrifice only from the neediest Americans.

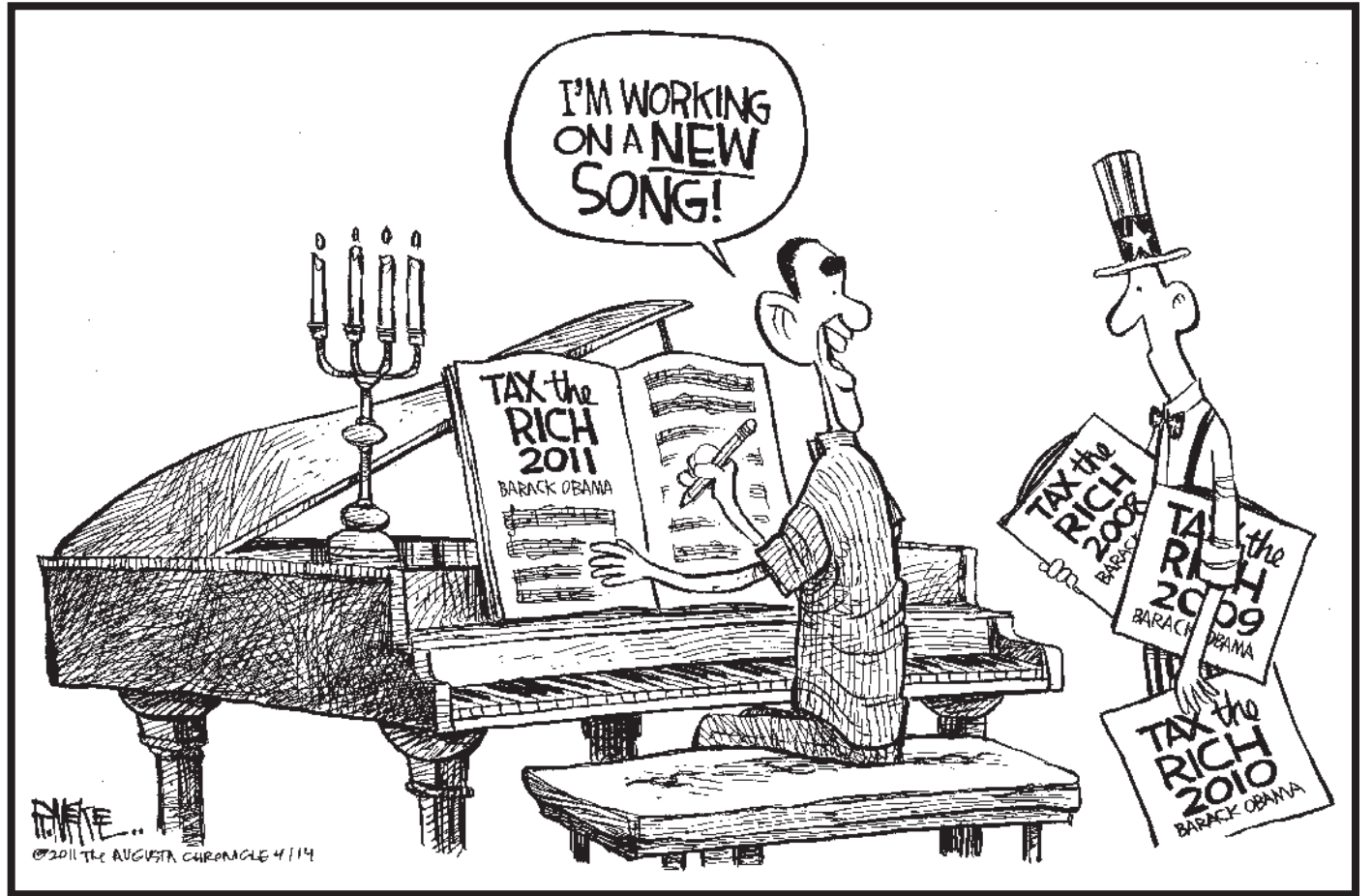
"Even though we can't afford to care for seniors and poor children, we can somehow afford more than \$1 trillion in new tax breaks for the wealthy?" he said, evoking memories of his pugnacious style on the campaign trail in 2008.

Obama said he was open to some changes in his plan, but he laid down clear markers about what he would not accept—a welcome shift in strategy. This was just one speech, however. He must now hold fast to these principles in budget negotiations, something he has failed to do in the past year.

Obama's speech clearly explained how his budget matches his values. Similarly, the Republican budget lays bare the GOP's top priority: Not cutting the deficit but cutting taxes, even at the expense of programs such as Medicare that are long-cherished parts of our national identity.

The ball is now in the Republicans' court. They can show they're serious about deficits and debt by agreeing to raise some revenue. Or they can stick with their own approach and make clear that their singular goal is protecting the wealthiest from sacrifice at the expense of the rest of us.

© 2011, San Jose Mercury News



## New federal plan: Free cars for everyone, but no Testarossas

It's been rather upsetting to watch America's political leaders shriek and yell and call each other names over all that red ink in the federal books. So I've come up with my own federal plan, to help relieve the stress on our politicians.

I don't care what you call it. And you don't have to name it after me. I'm just doing this to get our minds off the red ink and make politicians feel better about themselves.

If we don't change the subject, our political class will lose all their self-esteem. Their smiles will turn to frowns. Even President Barack Obama is looking a bit frazzled these days. He's expected to call for some kind of budget cuts Wednesday, to demonstrate that Democrats can cut, too, not just Republicans.

But then in a few weeks, he'll be asking to extend the debt ceiling. Currently, the debt is more than \$14 trillion, and we've just about reached the limit. That's right. \$14 trillion. Obama will want to borrow even more money that we don't have.

Some lawmakers threatened to say no to the new borrowing unless they get some real spending reductions, and this angered the White House.

"We do not need to play chicken with our economy by linking the raising of the debt ceiling to anything," said Jay Carney, Obama's press secretary.

Playing chicken isn't in a happy place. Playing chicken is actually quite scary. Somebody almost always caves, and that's when the bitterness sets in. So that's why I came up with my new plan. To end the bitterness.

I won't even take credit for it. Instead, I'll give it to the Democrats and the Republicans, and let them get their picture in the paper, so they can make voters happy.

That's the main thing for American politicians, isn't it? To avoid argument and confrontation and make the voters happy?

Of course it is. If the people are happy, their leaders are happy. And so I began asking myself the big question: What do Americans really want so they'll stop worrying about federal red ink and the debt and deficits and so on.

OK, what do the American people really want?

Probably great sex and the Fountain of Youth, plenty of money to spend, no illness or distress, lots of sunshine, plenty of fish to catch and game to hunt and steaks in the fridge, a World Cup, good books to read and a vision of America as the wondrous Sugar Mountain of the Neil Young song.

But no one would buy that one, so I came up with an alternative, and here it is:

Free cars.

"You mean I get a free car under your plan?" asked a guy I cornered.

Yes. Everybody in America over the age of 21 gets a new car. Absolutely free. The open road awaits.

"And gas for a year?" he asked.

Sure, why not? Gas for a year too. After the year is up, you'll have to pay for your own gas, but let's hope that Libya will have been "liberated" by then.

By **JOHN KASS**  
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Readers may send him e-mail at [jkass@tribune.com](mailto:jkass@tribune.com).



In the meantime, enjoy the ride.

He just stood there, considering the possibilities, free car, free gas, then began to smile and nod his head, and I saw one happy American.

"Dude," he said.

Dude, I said.

"So under the Kass plan, can I have a Bugatti, or a Testarossa?"

No, I said. This is an American debt problem, not some fancy foreign car problem. That's actually the problem with government programs. You give a little, and eventually, the client ends up demanding more.

So you are not entitled to a Testarossa. This is an American unhappy voter problem, and an American unhappy politician program, so let's just stick to American cars, like Toyotas and such.

Or Cadillacs, Buicks, Lincolns, Fords, Chevys and so on. We'll be giving away cars from companies subsidized by the federal government, and car companies that were independent.

"And no Hyundais," said the guy. "Because if you're giving out Hyundais, I don't want one. I'll have a big pickup truck."

Not a Prius?

"No, I don't live in Oak Park," he said. "But I sure am happy now. Free cars. It's a great idea. Thanks, man."

Then he smiled. And I wished the Congress of the United States could have been packed into my tiny office, so they could see what leadership is all about.

But please, don't be too tough on our politicians. They're emotionally needy people, but it's not their fault, really. It's our fault. They're exactly the kind of political leaders that America has demanded over time.

Originally, federal government wasn't supposed to do much more than provide for the common defense, secure the borders and basically get out of the way. But now all that's changed. These days, we are bribed with our own money, or rather, with our own massive debt, and people are angry.

And that's why I came up with Free Cars for Everybody.

"It's a great program, people will love you, but how do you pay for it?" asked my Bugatti-loving friend.

What? Are you some kind of moron? I don't pay for it.

"Who pays?" asked the guy. "Do I pay?"

Don't worry. You don't pay, either.

I just send the bill to your children and your grandchildren.

And they pay.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Japan's well-built society

By **BRAVEN SMILLIE**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I recently returned to my home in suburban Sendai, Japan, having fled with my family soon after the earthquake and tsunami. Everything changed for this region on that afternoon of March 11. People lost their lives and their homes, and that should not be minimized. But what impressed me most on coming back alone to pick up the pieces was how few homes were destroyed, and how rapidly life here is returning to normal.

Three weeks ago, kilometer-long lines of desperate motorists had blocked roads near gas stations, nearly preventing us from driving out. Now the lines are just a dozen cars deep, and moving. Also gone are the lines of people that once snaked for hundreds of yards from the entrances of blacked-out grocery stores. Gone are the harried store clerks fumbling with megaphones as they explained rationing rules. Simple inconvenience has replaced a sense of impending panic.

I pulled into our driveway, scanning the walls for cracks, then visited neighbors to give them customary gifts and to chat. The ongoing return to orderly life outside our home contrasted with the remnants of chaos we'd left inside. Wall hangings were strewn everywhere, and a chair from one room had inexplicably migrated to another. They were reminders of just how severely this place had been shaken, and what a wonder it was that so many homes here were left standing.

Having lived in Japan since 1989, I've spent decades nonchalantly riding out minor quakes. Now I jump at each of the frequent aftershocks that bring back the experiences of March 11. On that quiet Friday afternoon, a routine window-rattling rumble grew into a rolling, jerking ride as the walls seemed to dart out and snatch at us. Try to recall your worst falling dream and you'll have a sense of what it is like to lose all sense of confidence in your walls, floor and ceiling, and then even the ability to stand.

When the shaking finally stopped that day, I jogged out into a light snow to collect my daughters Tina and Elena from their nearby elementary school. As I arrived on the playground, I was frustrated at

how difficult it was to find my children, or to distinguish any of the faces of the children I knew. There was something common in their appearance. Every kid had the same mask-like facial expression—a thousand-yard stare that is astonishing to see on a child.

My 10-year-old, Christina, later gave a glimpse into the experiences that produced those shocked expressions: "It shook from the floor, and almost everybody was crying.... And our teacher said, 'Duck down under your desk and save your head!' It was like we were on a big boat and we were holding on to the feet of our desks and it was going back and forth and back and forth, like rowing a boat." The shock and terror were real. But not one child or teacher at the school was seriously hurt.

As the assembled children waited for their parents, we looked across the playground, watching long, low, quick swells pass across the surface. Sometimes the ground seemed to rotate around us in impossible ways. We heard a series of distant explosions, and a few much closer. How, I thought, had the school building remained intact? Shouldn't there be rubble?

The March 11 quake produced some of the most intense ground shaking and tsunami surges ever to hit a populated area. I have seen the areas where entire towns—and the families who lived in them—were literally washed away. It is hard even to grasp destruction on that level. It is harder still to grasp how much more of the earthquake zone remains totally intact. And I don't just mean physical structures; our societal structures have held fast as well.

On my return, I am not having to sift through rubble; I'm only having to get the gas reconnected. This life-and-death difference was made by things that we usually regard as mundane: building codes, evacuation drills, honest contractors.

On the day of the quake, after our initial relief at having survived, we had to improvise sources of heat, light, sustenance. Almost as bad as the lack of electricity, gas and water was the lack of knowing. This gnawing uncertainty grew over the next few days, especially after cellphone service was restored and we began to learn of the overheating nuclear reactors in Fukushima, about 50 miles south. News reports showed a bull's-eye of concentric circles on a map of

our region, with red in the middle, where the reactors were burning, and shading to orange and yellow farther out. We were outside the yellow part, but not far enough. In the end, it was that expanding bull's-eye map that clinched our decision to leave.

Hours of searching yielded four seats on a flight out of the local airport in Akita, but to get there meant a drive of more than six hours on mountain roads. We had about 23 liters left in the tank. But was it enough? In deep snow on uncertain roads, there would be no margin for error.

We set out, driving first through town and then on rural roads that gradually climbed into low mountains. Around dark, I watched the odometer and fuel gauge pass the point at which we could turn back. More miles and hours passed, eating up precious fuel on the climb. I became so focused on mileage that I even slowed the windshield wipers down, hoping it would save fuel during the trip.

We made it. But after a period of relief, I began to feel a little guilty. Had I left others behind to manage when we should be pitching in too? After 17 days away, it was time to go home.

I returned to Sendai in advance of my family. It seems that many families with young children also left after the earthquake. Now they are trickling back in, still a bit nervous as they monitor news of the nuclear plant cleanup and ride out frequent aftershocks, sometimes rivaling the original quake in intensity. School administrators are scrambling to figure out how many students they will have for the new academic year, which started April 11.

People talk about where gas lines are the shortest and where fresh eggs are on sale again. Friends pull up in front of my house asking me to grab a shovel and join them in a day of volunteer work clearing debris in the nearby tsunami zone. There are no stories of looting or violence, because those things would be unthinkable. The Japanese people and their culture have a tenacity and resilience that come out in times like these. And barring some massive failure to contain the nuclear mess in Fukushima, we may very well look back on the aftermath of this disaster, despite the tragedy and loss of life, as a societal success story.

*Braven Smillie, who was born and raised in San Diego, is a freelance translator in Sendai. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

## US can't afford to scrap nuclear power

**TUSCALOOSA, Ala.**—Despite the disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power complex, eliminating the technology that provides 21 percent of the United States' electricity and 14 percent of electricity worldwide would be dangerous and unrealistic.

Our demand for electricity is largely met using coal, nuclear, large hydro, and natural gas. We need electricity—and will need much more as plug-in electrics such as the Chevy Volt and Nissan Leaf become popular—and for many decades to come it is going to come from some mix of those technologies.

Wind and solar energy barely contribute to either U.S. or world electricity generation, both because they cost too much and because they are available only intermittently, when the wind blows or the sun shines.

Nor are renewable technologies free of environmental problems: plans for solar arrays in the desert have been blocked over concern for endangered species habitat and wind turbines are deadly for bats and birds.

Hydro cannot supply more power in the United States because we have been reducing our hydro capacity, attempting to undo some of the environmental damage caused by large dams. Even if we were not, we have already dammed virtually every river that has hydro potential.

For the foreseeable future, the demand for electricity in the United States and elsewhere is going to be met by a combination of nuclear, coal and natural gas. Each of these fuels poses a different

mix of risks and benefits.

As The Economist magazine recently noted, coal-generated power kills more people per kilowatt hour through air pollutants and mining accidents than does nuclear power. Coal is also a major source of carbon emissions.

Natural gas is cheap and relatively clean to burn, but also produces carbon emissions. And many environmentalists oppose efforts to exploit America's abundant natural gas reserves, fearing the consequences of fracking and other new techniques for unlocking underground gas reserves.

Nuclear plants are expensive and, as events in Japan demonstrate, pose risks of radiation leaks during natural disasters. But they also emit no carbon.

Eliminating them worldwide would increase carbon emissions by 2 billion tons annually, equal to the annual emissions from Germany and Japan combined. Anyone who cares about carbon emissions cannot ignore nuclear energy's role in reducing them.

Nuclear opponents rightly criticize the past practice of massively subsidizing nuclear plants, even as they wrongly call for subsidies for wind and solar.

Borrowing money from China that our children and grandchildren will have to repay just to bolster General Electric's profits in its massive renewable business is wrong economically and morally. Subsidies for any energy technology are a mistake. If nuclear plants

By **ANDREW P. MORRISS**

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

*Andrew Morriss holds the D. Paul Jones Jr. & Charlene A. Jones Chair in Law & Professor of Business at the University of Alabama. Readers may write to him at UA Law, 101 Paul W. Bryant Drive East, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35487; email: amorriss@law.ua.edu.*



are uneconomical without subsidies, they should not be built.

Nuclear opponents are also correct that the Fukushima nuclear complex revealed serious weaknesses in older technology.

The good news is that—despite a series of catastrophes of Biblical dimensions—the problems at the Japanese plant have been fewer than initially feared.

The even better news is that no one wants to build reactors using designs that predate the moon landing. For example, new reactor designs do not require active cooling methods, the breakdown of which following the power loss caused by a massive earthquake and tsunami wave created the most serious problems in Japan.

Nuclear energy's role in our energy future should stand or fall on its ability to compete economically with other fuels, free of subsidies but also free of policies based on wishful thinking. We need electricity to power our homes, businesses, schools, and hospitals. It would be wise not to rule out nuclear.

## America must learn to embrace its diversity

The United States is becoming more diverse than ever, and we should embrace this diversity—not recoil from it.

Children are leading this wave of diversity. "New minorities—Hispanics, Asians, and other groups apart from whites, blacks and American Indians—account for all of the growth among the nation's child population," according to a new report from the Brookings Institution. "From 2000 to 2010, the population of white children nationwide declined by 4.3 million, while the population of Hispanic and Asian children grew by 5.5 million."

Latino youth populations increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and all metropolitan areas except for Los Angeles. Already, in 10 states and 35 metropolitan areas—such as Atlanta,

Chicago, Dallas, New York and Phoenix—a minority of the children are now white. By 2020, that will be true of the entire nation, the report predicts.

"We are in the midst of a historic transformation that is happening most profoundly in our metros," said William Frey, a Brookings senior fellow and author of the report. "This is going to create major challenges, but it also means we have a clear demographic advantage over competitor nations, if our leaders are wise enough to capitalize on it."

America has reached a crossroads. We can choose to take advantage of these demographics and maximize educational and economic opportunities for all, or we can let demagogues divide us for their narrow partisan purposes.

By **DAVID A. LOVE**

The Progressive Media Project

*David A. Love is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.*



Our diversity strengthens the nation. We are facing increased global competition, and we're lucky to have so many children who are fluent in other languages and well versed in other cultures.






"Out of many, one." Long the motto of this nation, it was never truer than it is today.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼78

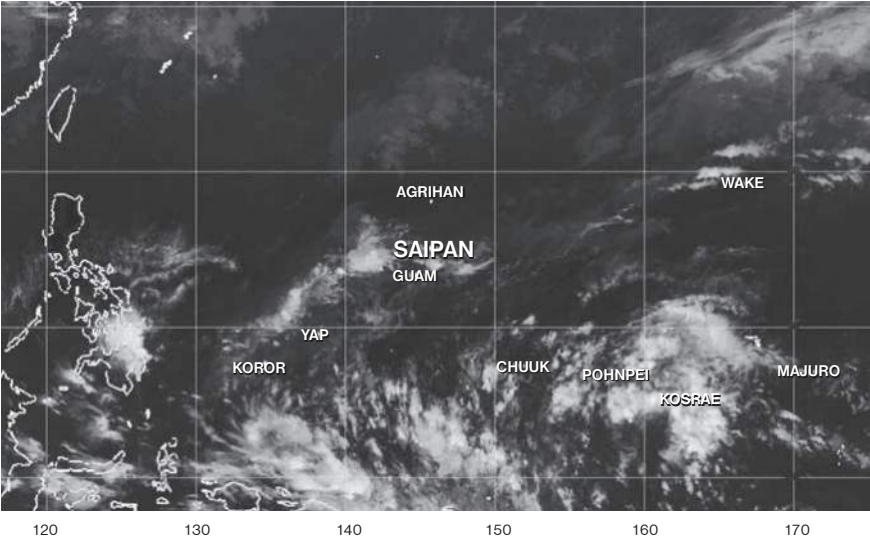
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼63
Beijing	Windy	▲67 ▼45
Hong Kong	Showers	▲75 ▼69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83 ▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83 ▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲90 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲64 ▼52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲55 ▼41
Osaka	Showers	▲63 ▼46
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼44
Pusan	Windy	▲58 ▼47
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼47
Salem	Showers	▲53 ▼47
San Francisco	Showers	▲66 ▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲64 ▼43
Tokyo	Showers	▲72 ▼51
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼48

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:55 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough southeast of Iwo Jima running northeastward from 19N139E to 25N147E is producing scattered showers along and within 250 miles northwest of the trough axis. A weak circulation centered northwest of Wake Island at about 21N161E. A shear line remnant east of Minami Torishima and a surface trough extending northeast from the circulation to 22N173E are together producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 21N and 25N from 156E to 178E. A shear line extends southwestward from the circulation at 21N161E through the Marianas to 15N141E. Scattered showers are found within 50 miles of this boundary. A surface trough reaches northeastward from north of Koror at 8N132E to 15N140E. Scattered showers are occurring within 50 miles of a line from 9N131E to 10N136E to 15N140E. A monsoon trough south of Koror and Yap stretches east-southeastward from 4N131E to end at EQ148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between the equator and 5N from 131E to 151E. Trade-wind convergence and a few weak surface troughs are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae, Pohnpei and around Chuuk along and within 700 miles north of a line from 6N148E to EQ166E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:38 PM	4:03 AM
Sunday	5:39 PM	4:49 AM
Monday	6:42 PM	5:39 AM
Tuesday	7:47 PM	6:31 AM
Wednesday	8:51 PM	7:26 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM</b> C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>GUAM-SAIPAN</b> C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES			
CATHOLIC 			
<b>Mt. Carmel Cathedral</b> Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro Parish office hours: Monday-Saturday 8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm			
<b>Korean Center</b> Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm			
<b>Kristo Rai Parish</b> Sunday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm) Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated) Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm. Telephone no. 285-0273			
<b>Santa Soledad Mission Parish</b> Monday: 6pm Tuesday: 6pm Wednesday: 6pm Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass) Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass) Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am, Saturday: 4-6pm Telephone no. 256-4568			
<b>Saint Jude Parish</b> Monday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 7am Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 2:4-4:5pm Office is close every Thursday and Saturday Telephone no. 288-0007			
<b>San Antonio Parish</b> Monday-Friday 6pm Saturday: 6pm Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children) Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm Close on Sunday and Monday			
<b>San Francisco de Borja-Rota</b> Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro Wednesday:6pm English Thursday: 6am Chamorro Friday: 6am English Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog Sunday: anticipated mass			
<b>San Isidro-Rota</b> Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am Monday-Friday: 7pm Saturday: 5am and 7pm			
<b>San Jose (Oleai) Parish</b> Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm Thursday: day off Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm Telephone no. 234-6991 <b>San Roque Parish</b> Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English Monday: 6pm English Tuesday: 6pm English Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil Thursday: 6pm English			
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays) Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143			
<b>San Vicente Parish</b> Monday-Friday: 6pm, Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month) Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm Parish office hours: daily 9-11am Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131			
<b>Santa Remedios</b> Sunday: 8am Monday: 6pm (1 <sup>st</sup> Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm) Tuesday- Friday: 6pm Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm			
PROTESTANT 			
<b>Born Again Christian</b> (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm			
<b>Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm Telephone no. 234-6026/27			
<b>Chinese Christian Church of Saipan</b> Worship Services: Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm Telephone no. 235-8540			
<b>Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan</b> Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm As Perdido Road Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 235-8590 Email: <a href="mailto:cornerstone@cfemcares.org">cornerstone@cfemcares.org</a>			
<b>Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan</b> St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road, Call 285-6081 for directions			
<b>Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service) GBl Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week) Telephone no. 322-5680			
<b>Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan</b> Wednesday: 7:45pm (English) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)			
Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)			
<b>Immanuel United Methodist Church</b> Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral) Worship Service: 9:00am Children's Sunday School: 9:00am Choir Practice: 8:00am Singspiration: 8:30am Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158			
<b>Immanuel Methodist Church</b> (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog) 9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage) (Korean Congregation) Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm Wednesday evening service: 8pm Daily morning prayer: 5am			
<b>Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan</b> Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm, Wednesday: 7:30-9pm			
<b>Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan</b> Sunday School: 9:20am Sunday Adult: 11am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm			
<b>Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan</b> Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)			
<b>Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan</b> English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm			
<b>Missions Connection Ministry</b> Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm			
<b>Northern Marianas Christian Church</b> Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620			
<b>Marianas Bible Fellowship Center</b> Sunday School: 9-9:30am Divine Worship: 9:30-11am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm			
<b>Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)</b> Sunday worship 8:30am Sunday evening 7:00pm Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel Telephone: 789-7566			
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)			
<b>Saipan Church of Christ</b> Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 10-11am Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm Thursday Bible Study: 7pm			
<b>Saipan Community Church</b> (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm			
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan</b> (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm			
<b>First Baptist Church Koblerville</b> Sunday services: Sunday school 9:00am Morning worship 10:00am Evening service 6:00pm Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm			
Chinese services Sunday morning 10:00am Sunday evening 7:00pm			
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. Telephone No: 285-4661/2			
<b>Thy Word Ministries Saipan</b> Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi			
Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism			
<b>Upper Room International Ministries</b> Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer 7am-9am English service 7am-9am Sunday school 10am-12noon English service, Koblerville Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church Gualo Rai, Saipan			
<b>Victory Chapel Christian</b> Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship:10:30am Sunday PM Worship:7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S			
<b>VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> (Formerly God's Victorious Army) Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246			

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com).

# Business

## Soaring food costs pushing millions into poverty

WASHINGTON (AP)—Soaring food and energy prices, still-fragile financial systems and continued tensions between the United States and China over trade and currency issues will all be on the agenda at meetings over the next three days of global finance officials.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick said Thursday that food prices are 36 percent higher than they were a year ago and already have pushed 44 million people into poverty. He called on major countries to do more to help poor countries meet the challenge of feeding their populations at a time of surging prices.

Finance ministers and central bank presidents of the Group of 20 major industrial countries were involved in talks that began Thursday on ways to address the food crisis and to better coordinate their economic policies.

Zoellick cited a new World Bank study that showed that another 10 percent increase in global food prices could drive an additional 10 million people into extreme poverty.

That would be in addition to the 44 million people who have been driven into poverty since June because of soaring food prices. The World Bank estimates there are about 1.2 billion people living below the poverty

line of \$1.25 per day.

“We have to put food first and protect the poor and vulnerable, who spend most of their money on food,” Zoellick said at a briefing to preview the upcoming finance meetings.

Those discussions began Thursday with talks first among finance officials of the world’s seven wealthiest countries—the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy. Those countries were joined later by finance officials from the Group of 20 nations, which include not only the traditional economic powers but fast-growing emerging economies, including China, India and Brazil.

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde and U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner also led a discussion on how the major economies could provide support in the Middle East and North Africa following a change of governments in Tunisia and Egypt.

In a joint statement issued after those talks, Geithner and Lagarde said the goal of the major economies would be to work with major financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to support economic growth that would benefit a broader group of people in Egypt and Tunisia.

## Ford widens recall of F-150 pickup to nearly 1.2 million

DETROIT (AP)—Ford bowed to pressure from regulators on Thursday and widened a recall of America’s top-selling vehicle, the F-150 pickup, because its air bags can deploy at the wrong time.

The recall now covers nearly 1.2 million F-150s built for the 2004 and 2005 model years and some built for 2006. An electrical short can cause the air bags to inflate without a crash and could injure drivers.

Ford Motor Co. in February said it would fix the problem in 150,000 trucks but had resisted the government’s wishes to expand the recall.

The widened recall shows how regulators have become more aggressive since being criticized last year for a slow response to unintended acceleration problems in Toyota vehicles. It’s also a sign that it will be harder for Ford and other automakers to limit the size of future recalls.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which regulates car safety, knows of 269 cases in which the air bags have deployed inadvertently, resulting in 98 injuries, some serious.

When Ford resisted NHTSA’s

request to expand the recall over the winter, the safety agency said it could hold a rare public hearing. “The potential for loss of vehicular control poses an unreasonable risk to safety,” NHTSA told the company.

Before Toyota’s spate of unintended acceleration recalls last year, NHTSA probably wouldn’t have made Ford expand the recall, said Joan Claybrook, a former administrator at the agency who previously led consumer group Public Citizen.

But the agency has become more aggressive since being criticized over Toyota’s problems, she said.

She said NHTSA could end up fining Ford for not recalling all the vehicles back in February. Toyota paid the government a record \$48.8 million in fines for its handling of three recalls.

Ford, like most automakers, will delay recalls to limit their size and cost, Claybrook said.

Ford said it will tell owners next month to take their trucks to a dealer to replace an air bag wire in the steering wheel. The wire can become chafed, causing a short circuit that can lead to the air bag inflating unexpectedly. The repair takes less than a half day, the company said.



# Nation

## Congress OKs big budget cuts—bigger fights await

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress sent President Barack Obama hard-fought legislation cutting a record \$38 billion from federal spending on Thursday, bestowing bipartisan support on the first major compromise between the White House and newly empowered Republicans in Congress.

“Welcome to divided government,” said House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, Republican point man in tough negotiations with the president and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., that produced a bill no one claimed to like in its entirety.

Leader of a rambunctious new majority, Boehner said the cuts in domestic programs were unprecedented. Yet he also called the measure a less-than-perfect first step in a long

campaign against federal red ink, and dozens of rank-and-file conservatives voted against it.

The White House also looked ahead to a struggle now beginning over national spending priorities in an era of soaring deficits and a \$14 trillion national debt.

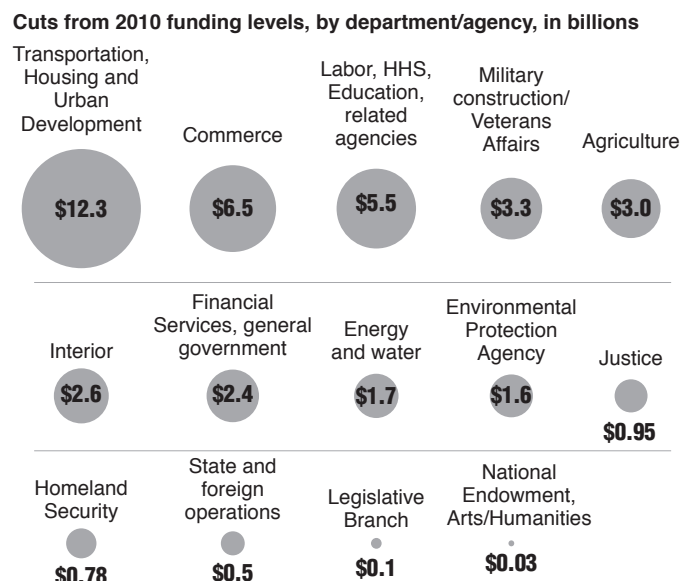
“We all know there are tough challenges ahead, from growing our economy to reducing our deficit, but we must build on this bipartisan compromise to tackle these issues and meet the expectations of the American people,” said an administration statement.

The bipartisan votes belied a fierce struggle that preceded passage and only narrowly avoided a partial government shutdown a week ago.

The tally in the House was 260-167. Among the supporters

### Budget cuts for this year

*Cuts in the \$38.5 billion deal hammered out by House Republicans and President Barack Obama to fund the government until Sept. 30:*



Source: U.S. House Appropriations Committee  
Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2011 MCT

were 60 of the 87 first-term Republicans, many of them elected with tea party support.

The Senate added its approval a short while later, 81-19, and most of the opponents were conservatives who wanted deeper cuts.

Even before the final votes, House Republicans pointed eagerly toward a vote Friday on their next move against mounting deficits, a comprehensive budget that claims cuts measured in the trillions, rather than billions, over the next decade. That vote is expected to be as partisan as the spending bill was not.

The measure approved Thursday will finance the government through the Sept. 30 end of the budget year, chopping \$38 billion from current levels and \$78 billion from the president's request of more than a year ago.

Billions were saved by eliminating congressional earmarks, and billions more in funds from the Census Bureau, left over from the 2010 national head count, now finished.

The Environmental Protection Agency, one of the Republicans' favorite targets, took a \$1.6 billion cut. Spending for community health centers was reduced by \$600 million, and the Community Development Block Grant program favored by mayors by \$950 million more.

The bipartisan drive to cut federal spending reached into every corner of the government's sprawl of domestic pro-

grams. Money to renovate the Commerce Department building in Washington was cut by \$8 million. The Appalachian Regional Commission, a New Deal-era program, was nicked for another \$8 million and the National Park Service by \$127 million more.

While Republicans touted the cuts in the measure, Democratic supporters pointed to even deeper reductions or even outright program terminations that Republicans had been forced to give up in negotiations.

That list included a family planning program for lower-income families, federal support for National Public Radio and the funds needed to implement the health care law that Congress approved a year ago and Republicans have voted to repeal.

While Republicans were unable to muster a 218-vote majority for the spending cuts on their own, the huge freshman class broke heavily in favor, 60-27.

Normally vocal, GOP critics of the legislation did not speak during debate. “This is done. I'm prepared to move on to bigger issues,” said one of them, Rep. Bill Huizinga of Michigan.

While reaching across party lines, the legislation produced few if any enthusiastic supporters.

Referring to a late lawmaker known for his sense of humor, Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., told the House, “As Mo Udall once said, if you can find something everyone agrees on, you can count on it being wrong.”

## FAA tries to quell sleeping controller controversy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Publicly fuming, the FAA chief collected Thursday the resignation of the head of the U.S. air traffic system, doubled controller staffing at more than two dozen airports and ordered a sweeping review of the entire system that ensures planes fly safely, as the government sought to reassure the public that air travel is safe despite at least four instances of controllers sleeping on the job.

But present and former controllers told The Associated Press that grueling work schedules and the design of the job itself—sitting in a dark room at night waiting for pilots to

call—have made taking naps on the job necessary, even if unauthorized by the FAA. One whistle-blower complained to the Transportation Department that cots can be found in one radar center, most often with controllers asleep in them.

The National Transportation Safety Board warned FAA after a deadly 2006 air crash that controllers' schedules were creating unsafe situations in which they were going into work after only a few hours of sleep. But little had changed until this week when Federal Aviation Administrator Randy Babbitt said he was immediately adding a second

controller on overnight shifts at 26 airports and a radar facility that had been staffed with a lone controller. Presumably the second controller provides a margin of safety if the first falls asleep.

Babbitt's order came hours after the pilot of a plane transporting a critically ill passenger was unable to raise the single controller working at 2 a.m. Wednesday in the tower of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Nevada. The FAA said the controller, who was out of communication for 16 minutes, was sleeping. Controllers at a regional radar facility in California assisted the plane, which

landed safely.

Hank Krakowski, the head of the agency's Air Traffic Organization, resigned Thursday and a replacement search was under way, Babbitt said.

“Over the last few weeks we have seen examples of unprofessional conduct on the part of a few individuals that have rightly caused the traveling public to question our ability to ensure their safety,” Babbitt said in a statement Thursday. “This conduct must stop immediately.”

President Barack Obama backed up his administrator, telling ABC News in an interview, “We've got it under control.”

## Son: Mom cried NY river plunge ‘terrible mistake’

NEWBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—A suicidal mother who loaded her four children into a minivan and drove off a boat ramp into the frigid Hudson River changed her mind as the van sank and cried, “I made a mistake, I made a terrible mistake,” said her 10-year-old son, who survived by crawling out a window and swimming ashore.

Lashanda Armstrong had warned in a cryptic Facebook message just before the fatal plunge: “I'm so sorry everyone forgive me please for what I'm gonna do.... This Is It!!!!”

Her 10-year-old son, the only survivor as his mother and three siblings drowned, says she had told the children, “You're all going to die with me,” but then tried, too late, to back out of the river, according to a woman who found the sopping wet boy.

Meave Ryan was driving past the boat ramp in Newburgh, about 60 miles north of New York City, on Tuesday evening when



Meave Ryan poses at her home in New Windsor, N.Y., on Thursday, April 14, 2011.

she spotted the boy, La'Shaun Armstrong, waving his arms.

Ryan said the boy told her that his mother had had a “big, big argument about my stepdad's cheating on her,” then piled the

four children in the minivan and sped into the river.

Ryan told The Associated Press on Thursday that La'Shaun said Armstrong had held him and the other kids—

boys ages 5 and 2 and an 11-month-old girl—as the minivan began sinking.

“She was holding on to all of them and said, ‘If I'm going to die, you're all going to die with me,’” Ryan said. “She said that two or three times.”

But as the vehicle sank, La'Shaun broke free of his mother's grasp and clambered out a window.

Ryan said: “While he was doing that, he heard his mother saying, ‘I made a mistake, I made a terrible mistake.’ And she tried to reverse the car out, but at that time it was too late. He said, ‘Mommy, I'm going to go get help,’ and she said, ‘OK.’ And that was the last he heard from his mother.”

Ryan drove the boy to a nearby fire station. Rescuers immediately went to the river, but it was too late: They found the van about 25 yards from shore in 8 feet of water. Lashanda Armstrong and three children were dead.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Obama: Most people confident he was born in Hawaii

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Thursday that Republicans who are sowing doubts about whether he is American-born may gain politically in the short term by playing to their constituencies but will have trouble when the general election rolls around. Obama says that's because most people are confident that he was born where he says he was—in Hawaii—and are more worried about gasoline prices and unemployment than conspiracy theories or birth certificates. The president spoke in an interview with ABC News.

#### Government issues mandatory rules for toddler beds

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government has approved new mandatory safety rules for toddler beds. The new federal standard adds protections to voluntary standards already being used for toddler beds. The new standard requires that the upper edge of the guardrail be

at least 5 inches above the toddler bed's mattress, that testing of the bed's slats be consistent with testing for slats in cribs and that separate warning labels to address entrapment and strangulation hazards appear on the toddler beds.

#### Woman sues dating site, says man assaulted her

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A California woman has sued popular website Match.com, saying she was sexually assaulted by a man she met through the online dating service. The civil lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court contends the alleged assailant had previously faced sex crime charges and that the website could have prevented the attack if it had checked his criminal background. The woman suing the website is an entertainment executive identified in court documents only as Jane Doe. Her attorney Mark L. Webb said his client was attacked at her home by Alan Paul Wurtzel after the two went on a second date at Urth Caffé in West Hollywood last year.



## Asia

# Japan orders compensation for nuclear plant evacuees

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan's government on Friday ordered the operator of a tsunami-damaged nuclear plant leaking radiation to pay about \$12,000 to each household forced to evacuate from the area.

Tens of thousands of residents unable to return to their homes near the nuclear plant are bereft of their livelihoods and possessions, unsure of when, if ever, they will be able to return home. Some have traveled hundreds of kilometers (miles) to Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s headquarters in Tokyo to press their demands for compensation.

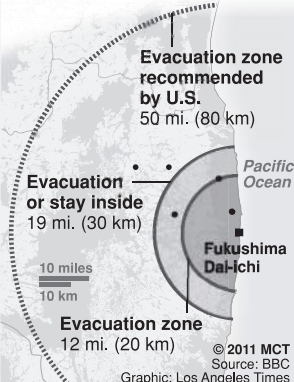
Hiroaki Wada, a Trade Ministry spokesman, said Friday that TEPCO will pay compensation as soon as possible, with families forced to evacuate getting 1 million yen (about \$12,000) and individuals getting 750,000 yen (about \$9,000).

"There are around 150 evacuation centers alone. It will take some time until everyone gets money. But we want the company to quickly do this to support people's lives," Trade Minister Banri Kaieda said at a news conference.

### Danger zone

Japan has told residents in towns outside the recommended evacuation zone to prepare to evacuate.

- Towns told to evacuate
- Urban areas



The arrangement is a provisional one, with more compensation expected, Wada said. Roughly 48,000 households living within about 19 miles (30 kilometers) of the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant would be eligible for the payments.

TEPCO's president, Masataka Shimizu, was expected to formally announce the plan later Friday. The company is

still struggling to stabilize the nuclear plant, which saw its cooling systems fail after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on March 11 triggered a massive tsunami that wrecked emergency backup systems as well as much of the plant's regular equipment.

Radiation leaks from the crisis have contaminated crops and left fishermen in the region unable to sell their catches, a huge blow to an area heavily dependent on fishing and farming.

The governor of Fukushima, Yuhei Sato, has vigorously criticized both TEPCO and the government for their handling of the disaster, demanding faster action.

"This is just a beginning. The accident has not ended. We will continue to ask the government and TEPCO to fully compensate evacuees."

Nearly 140,000 people are still living in shelters after losing their homes or being advised to evacuate because of concerns about radiation.

Seeking to console evacuees, Japan's emperor visited the country's disaster zone for the first time Thursday.

## Spring fighting season to test gains in Afghan war

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—Afghanistan's fighting season will begin in full force by the end of this month as the trees bud and the last of the snows melt off the mountain tops—and with it, a chance to measure the success of NATO efforts to turn back the Taliban.

The ferocity of the Taliban's widely expected spring offensive to regain lost territory and execute suicide attacks and assassinations will influence President Barack Obama's decision about how many of the nearly 100,000 U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan can start going home in July.

The extent to which the Taliban return to the fight will also help determine whether the surge of more than 30,000 additional U.S. troops that Obama announced in December 2009 succeeded in arresting the insurgency.

The reinforcements have routed the Taliban from their strongholds, captured and killed mid- to upper-level leaders, uncovered and destroyed militants' weapons caches and demolished their compounds—especially in southern Afghanistan, the birthplace of the insurgency.

But the militants, who have

shown their resiliency time and again, have taken the fight to other areas of country with high-profile attacks in Kabul and elsewhere. What's unknown is how strong the Taliban will prove to be as the fighting season gears up in what could be a defining year in the nearly decade-old war.

U.S. deaths are expected to climb, though the Americans have destroyed plenty of plant-ed roadside bombs in the south over the past few months. Since the beginning of the war, 1,431 U.S. troops have died in Afghanistan, at least 77 of them so far this year.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### NKorean defectors send leaflets against succession

**PAJU, South Korea (AP)**—North Korean defectors based in South Korea flew propaganda leaflets across the border Friday to denounce the North's third-generation political succession, drawing the ire of locals wary of possible retaliation. A group of about 10 defectors and activists used large helium-filled balloons to send what they said were about 200,000 leaflets and 1,000 U.S. dollar bills from a site near the

heavily fortified border. Another group of South Korean activists sent more balloons with leaflets. South Korean citizens sympathetic to the North and residents of the border city of Paju tried to stop the leafletting, blocking a road with a large truck. Scuffles erupted as the activists prepared to float the balloons.

#### Chinese police hunt man suspected of killing 10

**BEIJING (AP)**—Police were hunting Friday for a man in

northeast China suspected of killing 10 people, including his wife, father and son. The official Xinhua News Agency said 10 bodies were found at a bathhouse and car wash in Anshan city in Liaoning province. Xinhua quoted police as saying they were searching for Zhou Yuxin, the 33-year-old owner of the bathhouse and car wash. It said Zhou's wife, son and father were found dead, along with a female bathhouse worker, three family members of Zhou's landlord and three car wash workers.

## World



In this image made from TV, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is seen in Tripoli on Thursday April 14 2011.

## Gadhafi defiant despite NATO airstrikes in Tripoli

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)**—Moammar Gadhafi rolled defiantly through the streets of Tripoli, pumping his fists as he poked through the sun roof of an SUV on Thursday—the same day that NATO airstrikes shook the city. The alliance's foreign ministers, while united in their aim to pressure the Libyan leader to go, argued at a meeting over whether to step up military operations that have so far failed to rout him.

Gadhafi gave no sign that he's willing to relent, despite two months of civil war and mounting international pressure for him to move aside. Instead, his loyalists pounded rebel positions in the besieged western city of Misrata with dozens of rockets for several hours, killing at least 13 people.

The main target of the assault was Misrata's port, the only lifeline for rebels who have been trying to defend positions in the city, Libya's third-largest, against Gadhafi's forces.

In the capital of Tripoli, several large explosions were heard and a column of black smoke rose from the southeastern part of the city, followed by the sound of anti-aircraft guns, a resident said.

Libyan state television

showed Gadhafi—dressed in a black Western blazer, black crew neck T-shirt, sunglasses and a hat—standing through the open sun roof of a sport utility vehicle on a fist-pumping, rapid ride through Tripoli with dozens of supporters chasing behind him. Libyan TV said the trip came on the same day that NATO airstrikes hit military and civilian areas in the capital.

The TV report said there were civilian casualties from the attacks. The report could not be confirmed.

The fighting in Libya began in mid-February when large anti-government protests escalated into a civil war. Rebels hold much of eastern Libya, while Gadhafi controls the west, with the front line shifting back and forth in the middle. Three weeks of international airstrikes haven't routed Gadhafi's forces.

Gadhafi's troops unleashed three hours of heavy shelling on the port city of Misrata, which is partly held by rebels. The port is Misrata's only lifeline, and government forces fired tank shells and dozens of Grad missiles, according to witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared retaliation.

"They want to flatten the area

to deploy the troops on foot and invade the city," said one of the witnesses, a doctor whose first name was Ayman. He added that a ship sent by Doctors Without Borders to evacuate 165 critically injured people to Tunisia had been scheduled to arrive Thursday morning at Misrata's port, and he believed the government had shelled the port to interfere with the humanitarian aid.

Another doctor in Misrata, who gave his name only as Khaled for fear of retribution, said some of those killed were inside their houses asleep at the time of the shelling. Among the dead were two men aged 75 and 80.

Gadhafi forces have control of a highway on the outskirts of Misrata, Libya's third-largest city.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon chaired a Cairo meeting of regional and international organizations on Libya and set three targets: reaching and implementing a cease-fire, delivering humanitarian aid and starting a dialogue on Libya's future.

"Shelling your own people is not acceptable," he said at a meeting at Arab League headquarters, referring to actions by Gadhafi's forces. "This is a violation of human rights."

## Ivory Coast: More of Gbagbo's arsenal found

**ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)**—More than 500 BM-21 missiles were found Thursday stacked in green wooden crates in the basement of Ivory Coast's Presidential Palace, where foreign leaders had come only weeks ago to mediate a peaceful end to the country's political crisis.

The extent of strongman Laurent Gbagbo's arsenal is now coming into focus as it is discovered in caches around the city, enough military might to wage an extended civil war, had Gbagbo not been captured on Monday.

"We have here significant

stocks of heavy arms, which shows clearly that the U.N. Security Council resolution was appropriate and that the opportunity was taken to get rid of these weapons," said President Alassane Ouattara's secretary-general Amadou Gon Coulibaly, referring to the resolution that authorized the U.N. and French helicopters to attack and destroy heavy arms last week.

Pro-Gbagbo soldiers held out for days at the luxurious Presidential Palace in the center of the city, which was only conquered on Wednesday. On Thursday, Coulibaly surveyed the premises

and found the arms caches.

In the basement of the palace, an Associated Press reporter counted at least 532 cases of BM-21 missiles, each one more than 8-feet-long. Crates of mortars, grenades and ammunition littered the sprawling gardens and boxes of emergency medical supplies were stacked in an office.

All around Abidjan Thursday, teams of Red Cross workers shoveled charred corpses into bags while U.N. peacekeepers gathered more weapons, throwing them into dump trucks for disposal.



# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 16, 2011

## UFO prepares for Good Friday trek

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**P**reparations of the United Filipino Organization for next week's Good Friday trek to Mt. Tapochau are well under way.

The UFO booth during the annual trek every Lenten season would be the first to be organized by UFO's 2011-2012 officers.

"We do this activity every year. We've been soliciting donations and sponsorships so we can offer food and refreshments in our booth on Friday,"

UFO president Bong Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Malasarte, they already have a number of sponsors and already solicited *pan de sal* bread to be handed to the Catholic faithful who will brave the annual trek to Saipan's highest peak.

Malasarte said they will set up a big

tent on Thursday night in preparation for the next-day event.

He disclosed that the group will finalize their plans during Tuesday's meeting at 7pm at Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel.

For donations or information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525 or e-mail at [bong@malasarte.com](mailto:bong@malasarte.com).

Reynaldo Cañezares Gabriel always brings the house down with his jokes. It therefore seems fitting that he finds himself the sole and popular clown on Saipan.

Gabriel—aka Hapi D' Clown—began his entertainment career in the late '80s, when he was still juggling his time between getting a Psychology degree from Far Eastern University in Manila and his part-time job.

"I actually didn't start as a clown. I was a mascot talent to begin with," reveals Hapi, who used to work for RC Wonderland dressing up in various Disney character mascots during parties and events. "Eventually, I learned the ropes of clowning and I found it more enjoyable."

Hapi was trained by RC Wonderland proprietor Richard Cu, who treated him like a son and trusted him well enough to let him manage the business every so often. "He was my mentor."

Hapi's clowning engagements enabled him to hopscotch across the Philippines, from Roxas City in Capiz to Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, and meet all kinds of people, including show business personalities.

"I clown for children of famous celebrities. I even did it for Willie Revillame during his birthday party," Hapi recalled fondly, referring to a notorious television host in the Philippines.

According to Hapi, it was Revillame's wife at that time, Princess Punzalan, who called up his boss looking for an entertainer for her husband's children's party-themed birthday celebration.

"I was supposed to be a clown but Princess said her husband was such an *alaskador* [prankster] that she just asked me to come in as a mascot," said Hapi, who showed up at the party as Roger Rabbit.

Hapi noted that his decision to switch careers from being a mascot to a clown paid off, as wearing a vivid, eye-catching wig plus copious makeup meant a lot more earnings for him.

"We were earning as much as 1,500 pesos (\$34) a week, which was really a big deal in those days," he said.

### Greener pasture

Hapi's four-year stint as a clown back home came to an end when a friend at an employment agency told him about a job opening on Saipan. "A pizza parlor was looking for a clown entertainer with the job title of waiter," he said.

It was an offer that Hapi found too hard to resist. "I was so excited. It was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hapi D' Clown is the sole clown on Saipan.

## Hapi and his clowning glory

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

my first time to leave the country and work on foreign soil," he said.

Cu, Hapi's mentor, cried when Hapi left. "I would always be thankful to him because he taught me a lot."

It was Cu, Hapi said, who taught him to always do his best at work, enjoy what he does for a living, and save for the rainy days at all times.

"Of all his lessons, only the saving part never stuck in my mind," he quipped.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

As a clown, Hapi said one needs to be a happy lot, really sociable, and armed with patience to succeed.

### 'Scared kids'

Hapi, at the time a youthful 21 years old, arrived on Saipan in 1993, eager and ready to put on a show. Little did he know it wasn't going to be that easy.

"When I first came here, people were not excited about having a clown," said Hapi. "Unlike in the Philippines, the kids here were scared of a clown."

Even so, Hapi persisted, giving children fun stuff like toys and balloons and telling them that there's no reason to be afraid of clowns.

"They got used to me eventually. Kids would lighten up whenever they see me. One time, a government official who hired me said that I broke the children's fear and started the tradition of having a clown during parties," he said.

True enough, young kids got so used to Hapi that they would call him his best friend, wave, or honk at Hapi whenever they see him on the road or outside parties.

### 'Enjoyable, rewarding'

As a clown, Hapi said one needs to be a happy lot, really sociable, and armed with patience to succeed.

One good thing about clowning, said Hapi, is that you get to attend



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hapi D' Clown began his entertainment career in the late '80s.

parties all the time. "It's a party so I enjoy it a lot."

Hapi, who has been to Tinian and Rota dressed in any of his three costumes, four wigs, and tons of oil-based makeup, maintains that clowning is a rewarding experience.

"Being able to make the kids happy, even adults, is rewarding in a way. Especially if a child is scared initially and would later lighten up with me," he said.

Another advantage of clowning, Hapi said, is that it makes him eternally young.

"You're surrounded by kids that make you feel like you never grow old. When I do clowning, I get to be a kid all over again. I act like them so I can relate to them," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

After almost two decades, Hapi has clowning for countless birthday parties and all sorts of celebrations that he had been a clown for one family in three generations. "They got so tired of me that they would just invite me to their parties as a guest, not as a clown," he quipped.

Hapi's earnings as a clown, at the time when the economy was booming, made it possible for him to support his family.

Hapi, second to the youngest among seven siblings from Tacloban City, now owns a condominium in Rizal.

### Drawback

While clowning has its perks, it has its drawbacks as well.

A few years ago, Hapi's youngest brother was stabbed to death after a New Year's Day drinking party.

"It was really hard but you've got to put your personal issues aside and put on a good show for your audience," he said.

According to Hapi, being a clown is a transformation of oneself.

"Once I put on my makeup, wig, and costume, I have to be Hapi D' Clown," he added.

### A clown's future

Although he's approaching the 40-year mark, Hapi vowed to continue being a clown "as long as I'm still capable of doing it and making kids laugh."

"It just so happens that I get paid for making other people laugh and that's a good thing. I would recommend it as a part-time job," he said.

Hapi worries, however, that there seems to be no one to take over his clowning throne on Saipan.

"I've taught some kids a few tips, did their clown makeup, even taught my friend Kae who did a gig with me. But I don't know anyone right now who would take the clowning challenge. What's going to happen if I'm no longer around? Who would clown for Saipan?" he asked.

Hapi encourages those who know how to be funny among family and friends to share their talent with other people.

"Share your talent. If you can use it for a living, all the better. Remember that if you use it, you can make a difference in other people's lives," added Hapi.



# Rabusa sues three ex-military chiefs for plunder

By JEROME ANING  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Vowing to finish what he began regardless of what happens to him, former military budget officer George Rabusa filed plunder complaints against three former Armed Forces chiefs of staff, four retired generals and 10 other people for their alleged involvement in military fund anomalies.

The main respondents were former AFP chiefs of staff Efren Abu, Diomedio Villanueva and Roy Cimatu, and former comptrollers Jacinto Ligot and Carlos Garcia.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima welcomed the filing of the complaint.

"We've been waiting for this complaint. Since it's in a complaint form already, we will assign it to a panel directly for preliminary investigation," De Lima said in a text message.

Rabusa Thursday presented to the Department of Justice over 20 folders containing pieces of evidence, such as receipts, checks and other documents, to prove, he said, how money was misused during the tenures of Abu, Villanueva and Cimatu.

Asked if he was afraid someone would get back at him, Rabusa told reporters: "It's not a problem for me. As I said, I began this so I'll finish it. I'm prepared for all that might happen to me."

"We have documents ... We have testimony. I think we have

a strong case," Rabusa's lawyer Noel Malaya said.

## Other respondents

Other respondents were retired generals Ligot, Garcia, Hilario Atendido and Epineto Logico; retired colonels Cirilo Donato and Roy Devesa; retired majors Ernesto Paranis; former chief accountant Generoso del Castillo of OJ6 (office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership); and former military auditor Divina Cabrera.

The others who were sued and are still in the service were Brig. Gen. Benito de Leon, AFP management and fiscal office head; Col. Robert Arevalo of the Army; Col. Gilbert Gapay and Maj. Emerson Angulo of the Air Force; and Capt. Kenneth Paglinawan of the Navy.

Rabusa, whose body is half paralyzed after he suffered a stroke, told Radyo Inquirer in February he decided to break his silence after asking for a sign from God.

"I could no longer stand it. I hid this in my heart, my conscience. You know what I think, my stroke, this is bad karma," he told Radyo Inquirer.

## Slush fund

As chief of the budget division in OJ6 beginning 2000, Rabusa said he had "personal knowledge of the rampant irregularities in the military establishment."

Rabusa's 87-page complaint detailed the conversion of funds in the AFP through the Special

## AFP assures cooperation in plunder case

By KATHERINE EVANGELISTA  
INQUIRER.NET

**MANILA, Philippines**—The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Friday reiterated its assurance that the institution would cooperate in the hearings of the plunder charges filed against three former chiefs of staffs, two former comptrollers and several other senior military officials.

In a chance interview after the closing ceremonies of the RP-US Balikatan exercises

held in Camp Aguinaldo, Friday, AFP chief General Eduardo Oban said that they would make available all military officials currently in active service to attend the hearing procedure if they would be called to testify by the court.

"It has always been our position to seek the truth, that's the bottomline and with that in mind, we'll have to make available people and other requirements that might be needed in pursuit of that objective," Oban said.

Allotment Release Orders that the comptroller's office processed and turned over to the chiefs of staff for their disposal. Most of these funds were unaudited.

Rabusa had claimed that AFP chiefs of staff also received send-off (pabaon) and welcome cash gifts and other questionable monthly payoffs.

He first made the disclosure during the Senate inquiry into the plea bargain between government prosecutors and Garcia—Rabusa's former boss—who has himself been accused of plunder.

According to Rabusa, his predecessor revealed to him the questionable practice of maintaining slush funds through the so-called Operating Program and Budget (OPB) and the Provisions for Command-Directed Activities (PCDA).

The OPB is a document that serves as the basis for allotting a budget to various units of the AFP.

The PCDA, on the other hand, serves as the source of reserve funds for use during contingency operations, and is controlled by the chief of staff.

## 100-percent cooperation

"I was informed ... that this process had long been present in the OJ6 and because I would be occupying a vital position in the OJ6, to which my participation in the process is extremely important, it was imperative that I understood the system and gave my 100-percent cooperation to the people in charge," Rabusa said.

He said his first multimillion release of funds took place a few days after he assumed

"What we're doing is just in case there will be requirements pertaining to the presence or availability of personnel who might have some knowledge on the allegations, then we'll make him or them available," he furthered.

Meanwhile, the military chief said that they would not file further charges against the respondents of the plunder raps filed by military fund mess whistleblower George Rabusa on Thursday, saying that the case is "already at the level of the court."

office—involving P40 million, of which Ligot supposedly got P22.5 million and former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes P10 million.

Rabusa said the OPB and the PCDA had no legal basis because they did not always follow the annual military budget, as approved by Congress.

"The funds are utilized by the misappropriation of another approved expense class (such as those intended for military personnel's wages) and by the conversion of funds to cash using intelligence projects to be given to the chief of staff and other top officials," Rabusa alleged.

He said that through the OPB and PCDA, the implementation of activities that were unprogrammed, or emergency in nature, was accommodated.

"They likewise give flexibility to the AFP Chief of Staff to implement projects and activities based on his thrust or priorities, as stated in his programs during his tenure," Rabusa said.

He said his superiors made it "imperative" that he understood the system.

## No questions asked

"Anything that the Chief of Staff will tell the OJ6 to allocate, whether it is cash or fund release, we have to abide by his instructions and strictly speaking, 'no questions asked,'" he added.

Rabusa said he also made releases for the "East Timor Fund" intended for Filipino soldiers serving as peacekeepers in East Timor. He said one release of P6 million went to refurbishing the firearms for the military intelligence service, instead of for the peacekeepers' use.

He named one Ebbie Pelayo as a frequent military contractor who got funds to procure supplies and other needs of the OJ6 and the office of the chief of staff.

## 'Intriguing allottee'

During his time at OJ6, Rabusa said, one "intriguing cash allottee" was another retired chief of staff, Lisandro Abadia, who he claimed was getting P1 million monthly and only Villanueva, Cimatu and Garcia knew why.

There were also releases worth P1.76 million monthly to the defense department intended for intelligence and security at the time when Reyes was defense secretary.

Rabusa also said he turned over to Garcia P500,000 on three occasions and that Garcia told him this was intended for former Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, then chair of the defense committee of the House of Representatives.

Both Reyes and Pichay denied any wrongdoing. In February, shortly after appearing at the Senate inquiry, Reyes later fired a bullet into his chest, killing himself.



## ELECTRIC TRICYCLE

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, left, smiles as he rides a passenger electric tricycle known as "e-Trykes" during its launching in Mandaluyong city, east of Manila, Philippines, Wednesday April 13, 2011. The e-Trykes, which was funded by the Asian Development Bank, is a showcase by the Philippine Government in its program to reduce dependency on oil as well as reduce air and noise pollution, energy officials said. Sitting in the front seat is Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos.

## IMMIGRATION LAW

**Bruce L. Mailman**  
**Maya B. Kara**

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

**Call for Appointment**  
**(670) 233-0081**

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC  
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.  
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan



## 115 OFWs return from Kuwait with sad stories

By DJ YAP  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—Some 115 distressed Filipino workers, all women, returned home from Kuwait on Wednesday night, many with smiles on their faces, others with grateful tears, as they recalled their harrowing experiences in the Arab country.

One of them was 33-year-old Evangelina Paghunasan, a single mother who escaped her abusive employer after eight months on the job as a domestic worker.

"I just started crying when we got off the plane. It was only at that point when I truly believed we were out of there," she said. She recalled how, as her travel papers were being prepared, she half-expected to be barred from leaving.

Vice President Jejomar Binay, who secured amnesty for the women and arranged their repatriation in a previous visit to Kuwait, welcomed them as they arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport via a Singapore Airlines flight.

He told the women that the government was doing what it could to repatriate all distressed Filipino workers in the Middle East.

The arrivals were the second batch of wards of the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Kuwait who were granted amnesty by Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al Sabah following Binay's visit last month.

The first batch of 107 arrived in March. Binay's office said the rest would follow in succeeding flights.

"There are still many Filipinas there, waiting to be repatriated. But they can't because they are facing cases," said Paghunasan, who hails from Aguilar town in Pangasinan.

She said there were many Filipino domestic workers who literally had to jump out of the windows of buildings to escape their employers. This is why, she said, many wards at the FWRC have leg fractures.

Others could not be repatriated as they were still facing charges, she said. "They are the most pitiful because they've been there for a long time and some of them have lost their minds," Paghunasan said.

She counted herself lucky for not being raped or maimed.

Later, in an interview with reporters, Binay acknowledged that there were still distressed or runaway Filipinos left in Kuwait who needed assistance. He said he would work to get them out.

But he said employer abuse of Filipino workers, particularly in Arab countries, was less widespread than believed, noting that violence against domestic workers comprised only a small percentage of work-related crimes in the Middle East.

Binay said he would also support law enforcement efforts to run after recruitment agencies who reneged on their obligations to Filipino workers, especially those who became victims of abuse.

Paghunasan, who has three young daughters, said she would no longer return to the Middle East, and would convince everyone she knew not to go there.

"It's a different place. The people are different, the treatment we get is different. I will never go back," she said.

# Philippine military to boost Spratlys patrols

**MANILA (AFP)**—The Philippine military said Friday it planned to use a new US-made vessel to boost patrols in disputed South China Sea waters, amid a flare-up in tensions with China over rival claims.

The navy was looking to use the modern Hamilton-class patrol craft, recently bought from the United States, around the Philippine-claimed area of the Spratlys archipelago, military spokesman Brigadier-General Jose Mabanta said.

"That's one of the possible areas. We really have to secure some of our possessions, and the Spratlys is one

of our possessions," Mabanta told AFP when asked where the vessel would be deployed.

Mabanta said a Philippine navy crew was currently in the United States training to operate the patrol craft, and that it was expected to arrive in June.

The US navy describes the Hamilton as a high endurance cutter with close-in weapons systems.

The Philippine navy has a tiny and old fleet compared with China.

The Philippine fleet is made up of re-commissioned former US navy vessels, headlined by Rajah Humabon, a Cannon-class destroyer escort

that was built during World War II and is one of the world's oldest operational warships.

The Philippines and China, along with Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam, claim all or part of the Spratlys, which are believed to sit on vast mineral resources and lie near vital sea lanes.

The dispute flared up again last month when Manila complained that Chinese patrol boats had harassed a Philippine oil exploration vessel in disputed waters near the Spratlys.

The Philippines later announced plans to pursue oil exploration in the area and to upgrade its military airfield

on one of the islands, and lodged a formal protest at the United Nations over China's claims.

Amid the flare-up China has repeatedly reiterated its exclusive claims to all the disputed areas and their adjacent waters, much of which are much closer to Philippine land than Chinese.

The United States considers the Philippines a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organization military ally and the two countries are bound by a 1951 mutual defence pact.

China has repeatedly told the United States it has no right to be involved in the Spratlys dispute.



## PREPPING FOR PALM SUNDAY

Two men arrange bundles of palm frond for sale to those who make them into different designs for celebrations of Palm Sunday in Manila, Philippines, Thursday, April 14, 2011. Roman Catholics around the country observe Palm Sunday to signify the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and to usher the start of Holy Week.

## PH's rating improves in US human trafficking watch

By AQUILES ZONIO  
INQUIRER MINDANAO

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines**—President Aquino said the country has improved in its campaign against human trafficking and has been taken off the US State Department's "Tier 2 Watch List" on human trafficking cases.

This, Aquino said, was because of the increase in the number of convictions in human trafficking cases.

In Thursday's 23rd annual convention of the Prosecutors League of the Philippines here, Aquino announced that the conviction rate of cases handled by public prosecutors increased from 14 percent to 25 percent in just a span of 10 months.

Aquino claimed this was an indication that his administration, with the help of the Department of Justice, has been serious in upholding and perpetu-

ating the rule of law, truth and justice.

He also disclosed that from July 2010 to March 2011, the national prosecution service and the DoJ reached 22 convictions in trafficking in persons cases involving 23 traffickers.

"And because of that, we have been removed from the Tier 2 Watch List by the US government," he said. The Philippines, however, remains in Tier 2. According to the US State Department, countries included in the "Tier 2" are those "whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's [Trafficking Victims Protection Acts] minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards."

Those in the "Tier 2 Watch list," on the other hand, are countries where, among others, the "number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing."

## PERSONAL FINANCE

# Will I ever be a millionaire?

By EFREN LL. CRUZ  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## QUESTION: How difficult is it to become a millionaire?

**Answer:** The hit song "I Wanna Be a Billionaire" by Travie McCoy featuring Bruno Mars could have only inflamed the universal desire to become rich. And because of inflation, the benchmark now is not just a million but a billion. But aiming to be a billionaire is just downright greedy. Perhaps it would be better to just want to be a millionaire.

Regardless, between being a billionaire and a millionaire, we all want one thing—to be able to buy all the things we never had.

Here's the good news. You probably are already a millionaire. You just have to open your eyes.

Have you ever passed by a mansion and thought that a millionaire must be living inside? Being a millionaire is as much owning assets valued at a million or more as being able to earn that million.

Consider this: A person earning P10,000 a month for 13 months a year with his pay increasing by 5 percent a year and perhaps by 30 percent in certain years due to either career promotions or transfers to a better job. This person will also earn a retirement pay at the minimum amount provided by law by the age of 60. In computing the lifetime earnings of this person, I came up with the astounding figure of P55 million! Now pause for a moment to digest...Done?

At any point in the life of a person, he or she will have potential future income that, when totaled, can amount to millions. In essence people can already be multimillionaires by way of the earning power of their assets. People in the lending business know this only too well. And in much the same way as the owner of the mansion will perform maintenance on his property so that its value is retained or even enhanced, so too can a person increase the sum of this potential future income by maintaining his or her earning assets.

Which particular earning assets are we talking about? Why, the body and mind of course, two among three that constitute the most important assets of any individual. Keeping these earning assets well-oiled can take the form of a healthy diet, exercise, saying no to vices, acquiring new and enhancing old skills, earning a higher degree (e.g. masters), and many others. Such maintenance will eventually open the doors to investment opportunities in financial securities and/or a business that will all the more enhance the value of earning assets.

But let's not forget that while the body and mind provide the multimillion-peso earning assets, it is the soul, the third component of the most important assets of any individual, that give the other two meaning. How? By instructing the body and mind to share wealth with others. To paraphrase a saying, wealth is like butter, it needs to be spread.

So the next time you look in the mirror, say to yourself that this person may already be a millionaire.

Now, is it really that simple to maintain our multimillion-peso assets? Actually, no. It is easier said than done. As we all know, nothing worth having ever comes easy. And this is where the danger lies. In our desire to enjoy things now, we lose patience and short-circuit the process by overworking our earning assets and/or mortgaging them beyond reasonable levels. Maintenance is simply thrown out the window. And the end results are a receding hairline, the early onset of sickness and disease, past due loans, soured investments, enormous stress at work and even family discord.

So open your eyes, you may already be a millionaire. If not, just be patient and pace your life. You will still be able to buy all of the things you never had, or at least many of them. And whatever you have, share it. Remember that you're amazing just the way you are.

Thanks Travie and Bruno.

*Efren Ll. Cruz is a registered financial planner with the RFP Philippines. He is the author of the best-selling books Pwede Na! The Complete Pinoy Guide to Personal Finance and Pwede Na! The Complete Pinoy Guide to Retirement & Estate Planning. He is chairman and CEO of Personal Finance Advisers Philippines Corp. Questions about the article may be e-mailed to efren@personalfinance.ph.*



# Maharlika – PinoyStyle

## Canned show stirs TV debate in the Philippines

By JASON GUTIERREZ  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**MANILA, Philippines**—Willy Revillame is one of the most popular television personalities in the Philippines with a legion of poor fans who crave the thick wads of cash he hands out to audience members.

But to many critics, the 50-year-old star represents all that is wrong with an industry that they say has for years promoted low-brow entertainment and toilet humor.

Producers at TV5 television yanked Revillame's "Willing Willie" show off the air this week amid an uproar over a segment involving a crying six-year-old boy the host cajoled into simulating a striptease for P10,000 (\$230).

The incident in March has sparked a heated debate over the standards of Philippine television, with some calling for an end to shows they say prey on the poor and debase moral values in the conservative Catholic nation.

"Local television feeds Filipinos a steady, dirty diet of trash," leading film and television critic Lito Zulueta told AFP.

He said Revillame was a creation of an industry that had lost its moral compass as networks fought an intense ratings war.

"Television people forgot the canons of ethics and good taste, thereby contributing to the shallowness of Filipino pop culture," said Zulueta, a senior member of Manila's movie critics association.

In Revillame's show, studio audiences get the chance to win cash, cars, houses and other prizes by dancing and doing other acts on stage, but also by having to recount their problems with poverty and other hardships.

With a third of the country's 94 million population living on a dollar or less a day, Revillame's prizes appear as golden tickets to a better life while his show offers TV viewers a temporary escape from their hardships.

## TV5 willing to back Willie Revillame

### » Hit game show to resume with new look and feel

By PAOLO MONTECILLO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**MANILA, Philippines**—TV5 sees no reason to axe its controversial show host Willie Revillame who, network officials said, had been unfairly cast in the public eye as a child abuser.

TV5, however, was drafting guidelines on the appearance of children on its entertainment and news programs, according to president and CEO Ray C. Espinosa.

Revillame's TV show, "Willing Willie," was temporarily taken off the air starting on Monday amid the uproar over a 6-year-old boy's tearful performance of a "macho dance" in its March 12 episode.

The child was later handed P10,000 by Revillame.

Espinosa agreed that "Willing Willie" could use some improvement, but said "the incident is definitely not a reason for [Revillame] to be taken off the air."

The network said it was confident that advertisers who had pulled out would return to support "Willing Willie," the hit game show hosted by the 50-year-old Revillame who is currently on voluntary leave.

A significant portion of TV5's revenues comes from the prime-time show coproduced by the network and

Revillame's WilProductions, according to Espinosa.

"Definitely, 'Willing Willie' is our flagship program," Espinosa told Philippine Daily Inquirer editors and reporters on Wednesday night. But he also said "Talentadong Pinoy" is TV5's highest rating program.

"Obviously, we are in discussion with the advertisers. They pulled out because of the pressure coming from social networking sites."

Espinosa said certain changes would have to be made to improve the quality of the show's content.

He did not go into detail, but said the network planned to change the show's "look and feel." He stressed that the show—so far one of the few making a profit in the young, aggressive network—would continue to be aired.

### 'Abridged and spliced'

A 10-minute video of the boy's performance was circulated in YouTube, eliciting outrage from various sectors.

A number of advertisers withdrew their placements in response to a clamor from some groups to boycott the show.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board has launched an inquiry into the incident to determine whether the boy's rights were violated.

But Espinosa said the video was "much abridged and spliced."

who gyrate on stage and flirt with game show hosts are common fare on prime-time TV, while senseless plots in soap operas copied mostly from South Korean and Mexican "telenovelas" are a dime a dozen.

Daytime comedy shows accessible to children also use language heavy in sexual innuendo, in a country where sex education in schools remains controversial.

"It was edited to make it appear that he was crying the whole time," Espinosa said, adding that the boy cried because he was scared of former basketball player Bonel Balingit, a talent on the show, and because he had been booted out of the game.

Espinosa also said the boy's performance was taken out of context because of the way the video was edited.

He said that the boy was on the show for over 48 minutes, and that parts of the show in between the boy's dance were not shown in the video.

### 4 inquiries, overkill

"I think this issue has generated more attention than the recent issues of corruption in the military," Espinosa said.

"Four agencies are already looking into it," he pointed out, referring to the MTRCB, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Justice.

Espinosa said the accusations against Revillame and the show were an "overkill" and even libelous in some cases.

Earlier on Wednesday, the boy's parents filed a libel complaint against child psychologist Ma. Lourdes "Honey" Carandang, two bloggers and John and Jane Does, saying the charge of child abuse against them had caused them "dishonor, discredit and contempt."

A soap opera that recently completed its run on one network was patterned after a 1980s-era soft-porn movie about a 14-year-old girl in a sexual adventure with two men, leading to unwanted pregnancy.

Another talk show currently on air allows housewives and mistresses, and warring neighbors to confront each other, often leading to verbal abuse and



**Controversial "Willing Willie" show host Willie Revillame.**

punch-ups, hair-pulling and other angry encounters on live television.

Content of this kind may be considered common in the West, but is much more controversial in the Philippines where about 80 percent of the population are Catholic and the church remains a powerful moral force.

Divorce and abortion remain illegal in the Philippines, and conservative lawmakers have repeatedly rejected bills that would promote artificial contraceptives.

In an emotionally charged appeal this week on her blog, theater actress Monique Wilson called on her fellow artists to help raise television standards and boycott exploitative, low-brow shows.

Wilson, who counts among her achievements the lead role in the West End production of the Miss Saigon musical in the early 1990s, said television was supposed to empower and educate.

"When you see shows like Willing Willie—and many other similar shows—they do the opposite," she said.

"They dumb down audiences. They disempower them by creating a mendicant society with game shows that promise quick money. They keep them dependent on handouts, instead of creating opportunities for them to build on skills."

Veteran TV programmer Nessa Valdellon joined the chorus of calls in the mainstream press this week for advertisers to invest on shows that provoke critical thinking.

## Are Robin, Mariel also TV5-bound?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Could it be true that Robin Padilla and Mariel Rodriguez have sent feelers to TV5 about their desire to switch networks? Their pledge of love to each other is stronger than ever. But pledging allegiance to one's home network doesn't seem to be the "in" thing these days with all the celebs jumping ship left and right.

### Back to show biz

I met the husband of Roxanne Guinoo at the baptism of Ricky Reyes' apo. I asked him if he would still allow his wife to go back to show biz.

"Siya na mismo ang ayaw mag-full time," he says. "She's so focused on our baby. Sa akin OK lang naman basta walang love scenes."

### Real score

Jolo Revilla called me up to clarify the real score between him and Jodi Sta. Maria. "Nahihiya ako kay Jodi

at sa family niya," he explained. "Wala kaming relasyon. Close lang kami. Marami siyang pinagdadaanan ngayon so sana 'wag na dagdagan pa ng intriga. Ako naman busy with my constituents in Cavite. No time for love muna ako now."

### Spotted together

Maja Salvador and Matteo Guidicelli were spotted together at the Bruno Mars concert. Wonder what their Bruno song is for each other? "Just The Way You Are" or "Marry You"?

### Duped

Daiana Meneses suspects that someone who used to be close to her is behind the tax evasion charges she is now facing. "I was assured that my finances were being taken care of," she explained. "I guess I trusted the wrong people. But I am taking full responsibility and not running away from my obligations."

Although she won't admit it, I heard from a mutual friend that the

guy she's dating has a live-in GF.

### High spirits

Birthday boy Richard Gomez was in high spirits when DJ Mo and I interviewed him for "Paparazzi" in Fontana. Goma said in jest, "Look at those older women watching us from afar. 'Yan na ang market ko ngayon. Mga thundercats."

I beg to disagree. The level of Goma's charms is directly proportional to his age, and women of all ages (not to mention gays) still swoon at the sight of him. He's off to Guam with Lucy and Juliana for a belated birthday celebration. "Hopefully, makabuo na kami ni Lucy dun," he said, laughing. "Nakaka-pressure na when we are asked kailan namin susundan si Juliana, who's already 10."

Doesn't Lucy get jealous of his kissing scenes in "Nagbabagang Bulaklak?"

"I'm lucky that my wife is not the selosa type, that's why it makes my job as an actor easier," he says.

## New Charice single not all that new

By POCHOLO CONCEPCION  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Filipino international pop star Charice's new single, "Before It Explodes," written and produced by Grammy-winning Filipino-American singer-songwriter Bruno Mars, and scheduled for release worldwide as a digital download on Aug. 18, is not all that new.

The tune was first recorded last year by British singer Alexandra Burke, winner of the 2008 (fifth) series of "The X Factor"—a TV reality talent search in the United Kingdom created by Simon Cowell.

Burke's studio recording of "Before It Explodes," which can be heard on YouTube, also has Mars lending his vocals on the song's third stanza and the build-up to the chorus.

However, it was not released commercially.

Charice's version, which has a one-minute teaser that has been posted

on YouTube as well, does not seem to divert much from Burke's original rendition—both singers interpret the song's bittersweet lyrics, about lovers parting ways, on a soaring, impassioned manner.

The song is reportedly Charice's first single off her coming second studio album on her mentor David Foster's 143 record label (a subsidiary of Reprise/Warner Music).

So, fans and critics may ask: Why push a cover tune for Charice, who had already cracked the US Billboard chart last year with her single "Pyramid," originally written by a Swedish

production team? Maybe it's because "Pyramid" peaked only at No. 56 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Charice's handlers (including Foster) are apparently banking on Mars' current popularity and production whiz reputation, thus their decision to have Charice record "Before It Explodes."



**Charice**



# Maharlika – Opinyon

## Target 'em

No, says Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, government is not targeting the previous administration. Government is merely gathering evidence on corruption and letting the ax fall where it may.

He denied that the filing of a tax evasion case against Juan Miguel “Mikey” Arroyo shows a campaign against GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo). “We’re just looking at the landmines that were left behind. We’re not targeting any specific person. The President himself has said that even if they are with the opposition, we should give them due process. The best measure of good government is to give your enemy due process and fairness.”

I don’t get it. What in God’s name is so wrong, or so hard, about saying:

“But of course we’re targeting the previous administration. It was a government that was dedicated to corruption. It was a government that added whole new dimensions to corruption. It was a government that was next in corruption only to the martial law one.

“The evidence against GMA and her family is far huger than the mountain of trash in Payatas. It has to do not just with the corruption of despoiling or plundering, it has to do with the corruption of spoiling or poisoning. It has to do not just with stealing the country’s money, it has to do with stealing the people’s vote, the people’s

lives, the people’s freedom.

“But we have to begin somewhere. We have chosen to begin small. The filing of taxes against Mikey Arroyo is just the beginning. It is just the first step in a journey of a thousand miles. It is just the first blow in the fight for justice. But do not fear, the rest will come on the heels of this. Justice will come, retribution will come. As surely as day follows night.”

Why the coyness? This isn’t the first time government has been asked whether it has been singling out the Arroyos for prosecution or persecution (depending on who’s asking the question). And Aquino’s representatives, if not Aquino himself, have repeatedly answered in this way. What’s wrong with saying, “Yes, we’re after GMA, we want to make her pay for her crimes?”

Of course you have the Arroyos themselves crying foul. “Political harassment,” cries Mikey Arroyo, who adds that he wasn’t given due process, he was just made aware of his forgetfulness a couple of days before the BIR filed a tax evasion case before him. Selective perception, says Miguel Zubiri, who adds that government has also filed a case against Prospero Pichay, a well-known GMA supporter.

Naturally, Mikey and the other Arroyos will cry harassment and persecution. That’s what the Marcoses and their cronies cried too when the PCGG tried to recover the loot they spirited away. Cory stood her ground then, and rightly so, her countrymen, who had just dismantled the rolls of barbed wire strung up across Malacañang, being fully aware of the difference between revenge and justice, vindictiveness and zeal, oppression and conviction. Though I doubt the country would have greatly minded if Cory’s government had been a little bit more vengeful, vindictive and oppressive against the Marcoses, which would have indicated fury and passion, the kind the Jews have shown before the wreakers of the Holocaust. Some things ought never to be forgotten. Some things ought never to be forgiven.

It was so then, it is so now.

Zubiri may at least know that if government is singling out GMA and her allies, past or present, for prosecution or persecution, he won’t be hounded for stealing money, he will be hounded for—like

his favorite president—stealing his seat. But I’ll leave the Pimentels to press that point.

Of course too there’s the argument that government would reveal its hand, or telegraph its punches, if it said that it was targeting the Arroyos in its fight against corruption. Which would put them on guard, which would allow them to prepare their legal defenses, which would force them to fight back like cornered rats.

Well, whether government says that or not, the Arroyos will be preparing for it anyway. GMA did not last for nine years being naïve. She knows any serious anti-corruption campaign, as abundantly shown by the impeachment of Merceditas Gutierrez, will get to her eventually. So there’s nothing to lose by telling the world government means to right wrongs, the wrongs of the past regime above all.

And there’s everything to gain.

The point of an anti-corruption campaign is not just to target the corrupt, it is to target the people. The first meaning to prosecute, to hound the corrupt to the ends of the earth, the second to instruct, to reach the people to the depths of their souls. The point is not just to convict the corrupt, it is to enlighten the public.

It’s not just that educating the people in the true meaning, or horror, of corruption is the only way you can stop corruption in future, it is that it is the only way you can convict the corrupt today. You need look no further for proof of that than the Erap (Joseph Estrada) impeachment trial. The intention of the law can always be perverted, the will of the people cannot. In the end, it was the people, and not the courts, that judged Erap, and convicted him.

To say that, yes, government does mean to target GMA and everyone who helped her lie, cheat, steal and murder for the last nine years is to bring, draw, harness, conscript, enlist the people into the anti-corruption campaign. That is the only way it can succeed, with the aid, support and encouragement of the people. The true measure of good governance is not giving your enemy due process and fairness, it is giving the people due justice and restitution. The true measure of good governance is not giving your enemy the chance to defend himself, it is giving the people the chance to judge him. Or her.

Enough with being cute. Target ‘em.



### There’s The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## EDITORIAL

### Lust for entertainment

© 2011, Philippine Daily Inquirer

Willie Revillame, ABC-5 and their lawyers have called for a summit to chart specific rules on the use of children on broadcast entertainment programs. Lawyer Leonard de Vera urges the expansion of the inquiry on “Willing Willie” “to cover all TV programs with children and minors, whether as performers or game-show contestants.” Their tack appears to be to spread the blame around, to present the “Jan-Jan macho-dance” controversy as having been created by a supposedly grey area in broadcast entertainment in connection with the use of child performers or, in the case of the Channel 5 show, of child contestants. They are saying that since no clear rules exist, no rules have been broken. In short, Revillame et al. plead not guilty.

Of course, no clear rules have been broken when seen from the eyes of the hide-bound and the blasé. The same could be said by broadcast journalists who covered the Aug. 23, 2010 Luneta hostage-taking incident whose eagerness to scoop each other made them broadcast the incident 24/7 and disclose unnecessarily the police operations, abetting the hostage-taking and later helping trigger the bloodbath that left eight tourists dead. Until the furor over the bloody aftermath, they had not restrained their coverage, arguing that they were providing the public blow-by-blow accounts of events in the interest of the truth.

Alas, what links the Luneta massacre and the “Jan-Jan” scandal is entertainment. Lust for entertainment has blurred the boundaries between diversion and information, between fiction and reality. Now, even information is “infotainment.” Everything is sacrificed on the altar of entertainment.

Lust for entertainment explains why, despite the visible unease with which Jan-Jan mimicked a male stripper, Revillame goaded him on with the promise of P10,000. And despite breaking into tears finally, the kid continued the lewd dance, compelled as he was by heckles of the studio audience and perhaps, of the rest of viewers nationwide. It is probably because of the rather “positive” reaction of TV audiences that De Vera said there was “nothing obscene” about the dance, since “dance has become part of Filipino culture . . . (and in) many Filipino homes, children dance their way during family gatherings.” In short, lewd dancing is a Filipino pastime; it’s banal entertainment. And sad to say, that’s all true. Now the nation has an idea first-hand of what Hannah Arendt, in the context of Nazi horrors, called “the banality of evil.”

Perhaps something good may come out of this. By all means, let there be a meeting for the setting of clear professional standards for broadcast entertainment programming. But first, there should be recognition of how far TV and radio have become producers of shallow, crass and now, child-abusive, entertainment; and how the advertising industry, the corporate world, and state agencies have abetted it all in the name of commercialism. In the end, broadcast audiences—the public—should recognize how their passive and uncritical consumption of TV images and messages has enabled broadcast to foster a veritable national culture that has compelled minors like Jan-Jan to dance like a stripteaser before the whole world over which they find nothing terribly wrong—all in the name of cheap, banal entertainment.

## Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa?

Simunul is a small island off Bongao, Tawi-tawi, that is considered the cradle of Islam in the Philippines. It is a photogenic place, worthy of any tourism brochure, and if not for the travel advisories warning foreigners about travel to Mindanao, this sleepy island would be earning enough tourist dollars to keep islanders from going abroad for work.

From Simunul one can see Sabah, Malaysia, and travel to and from there continues today as it has for centuries. Goods are said to be cheaper and better in Sabah than in Tawi-tawi so the exchange of people and merchandise continues but this is made complicated by the laws of the Philippines and Malaysia. When goods from Sabah are brought to Simunul, a practice longer than human memory, this exchange is considered as trade, but when Sabah or Malaysian goods are transported to Philippine territory they are considered “imported” and subject to customs duties. Nobody bothers to pay tax and so the centuries-old trade is seen as “smuggling.”

Long before Magellan was born, long before the Europeans traveled to Asia in search of spices and “undiscovered” lands that they claimed and colonized, insular Southeast Asia was an area where people and goods moved freely. Unlike today when land and people are considered separated by bodies of water, in pre-Spanish times and before the coming of the wheel and the building of roads and bridges, bodies of water in an archipelagic country like the Philippines connected people. They did not need bridges to hop from one island to another, all they needed was a boat. We have forgotten that sea and river were their roads and highways.

Before the West divided insular Southeast Asia, one of the main sources of income in this part of the world was “slave raiding.” Have you ever wondered why Spanish-era Catholic churches in the Philippines were sturdily built? These structures had to withstand typhoons and the so-called “Moro raids” from Mindanao that were mounted to take people off to be sold as slaves. Churches were built on high ground, with watchtowers high enough to sight the slave raiders before they attacked. Walls and doors had to be thick enough to provide refuge.

Slave raiding has gone on in this part of the world for centuries, and it continues today although it is now called by another name: “kidnapping.” History cannot make human smuggling, kidnapping and human trafficking right in our eyes, but to see this trade over the centuries helps us understand why, and perhaps provides the basis for a solution.

As I walked through the impressive Islamic Arts Museum in Kuala Lumpur, I realized the yawning gap on Mindanao in our

textbook history. This museum is a serene and modern building providing 30,000 sq.m. of exhibition space. The architecture section explains how and why mosques are built, and through pictures and scale models, you have an idea of regional and historical styles. Visiting the gallery of manuscript Korans is like walking through a 21st-century version of the King’s Gallery of manuscripts in the British Library. One of the Korans in the collection is a 19th-century manuscript from Mindanao.

In the gallery of weapons, there were many samples of the keris or bladed weapon common throughout Southeast Asia. The ones with the wavy blade caught my eye because in many representations of San Miguel in Philippine colonial art the archangel sometimes uses

a kris with a wavy blade to defeat the devil. These weapons come with decorated sheaths, some embellished with gold and precious stones, to reflect the status of the owner. I did not know until I saw many examples that the sarung keris or sheath forms a T-cross that resembles a boat, again a reflection of our ancestral knowledge of the sea and seafaring.

How come I never learned all this in my history class? Perhaps I was absent, sleeping or dozing when this lesson was being taught.

Visiting this museum showed me our historic links with Malaysia through Islamic art and culture. Reading a wall text on the “Chronology of Malay World Sultanates,” I found a few references

to the Philippines in the Sultanate of Sulu that existed from 1410 AD until it was attached by the Spanish in 1577 AD. The name of Sultan Baguindo of Sulu is mentioned. So is a certain Sultan Saiful Rizal (reigned 1533-1581) who spread Islam to the Philippines.

How come that the only Rizal in my textbooks was Jose Rizal? Now that we are considering a K+12 basic education and the revision of our textbooks, perhaps there should be more on the Visayas and Mindanao to balance a history of Luzon or Manila that passes for Philippine history. I would think that the first step in solving the challenges in Mindanao is to learn about its history in school, for to know the past is to understand.

I read both the English and Malay captions in the ceramics display, noting similar words: a vase is called pasu in Bahasa Malaysia and it is guci (pronounced “gusi”) in Bahasa Indonesia, both words we use in Filipino. Bowl is mangkuk in Indonesian, Malaysian and Filipino. Pinggan is the word for dish in all three languages.

These made me recall the Marcos-era slogan, “Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa” (One Nation, One Spirit). How do we acknowledge the many cultures and languages of the Philippines to combine all these diverse peoples into one nation?



### Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



# Maharlika – Samu’t Sari



Lester Lapuz of Marianas High School struts his stuff on a makeshift catwalk after winning third place in Thursday's "Trash-In Fashion Show."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Students clad in recyclable materials on the grounds of the American Memorial Park.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## ECO-FRIENDLY FASHION

One of the participants in this year's "Trash-In Fashion Show" awaits the announcement of winners on the grounds of the American Memorial Park in Garapan on Thursday. The fashion show promotes creativity using recyclable materials in fashion, as part of the Environmental Awareness Month activities.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Daniel Agulto of Marianas High School wins second place in Thursday's Trash-In Fashion Show.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Saipan Southern High School senior Lydee Pangelinan, center, is flanked by two other winners and organizers of the "Trash-In Fashion Show."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



## 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Happy 10th wedding anniversary to our beloved pastor Francis and Claire from PMCC (4th Watch) family. May the Lord bless you with more years of marital bliss.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## KITE ENTHUSIASTS

Jhoe Lopez of Herman's Bakery enjoys quality time with his other half, Ethel, and 1-year old daughter Zoe Franzine during the Marianas Winds Kite Festival & Cultural Food Fair last April 10.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



## TAKEBACK CAMPAIGN

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, second from left, is joined by, from left, Michael Puralewski, the Drug Enforcement Administration resident in charge for Guam and CNMI, Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez, and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao to announce the CNMI's participation in this year's National Prescription Drug Take Back Campaign, an awareness program on the proper and timely disposal of unused or expired prescription drugs. Limtiaco made the announcement Thursday at the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



# YoungStyle

## iPads take a place next to crayons in kindergarten

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)**—Kindergarten classes are supplementing crayons, finger paints and flashcards with iPads, a development that excites supporters but that detractors worry is wasted on pupils too young to appreciate the expense.

Next fall, nearly 300 kindergartners in the central Maine city of Auburn will become the latest batch of youngsters around the country to get iPad2 touchpad tablets to learn the basics about ABCs, 1-2-3s, drawing and even music.

"It's definitely an adventure, and it'll be a journey of learning for teachers and students," said Auburn kindergarten teacher Amy Heimerl, who received an

iPad on Tuesday ahead of the full deployment in the fall. "I'm looking forward to seeing where this can take us and our students."

But the \$200,000 that Superintendent Tom Morrill is proposing to spend on iPads—which retail for around \$500—might be better spent on some other school program, said Sue Millard of Auburn, who has children in the fourth grade and high school. She also questions whether kindergartners are old enough to appreciate the effort.

"I understand you have to keep up with technology, but I think a 5-year old is a little too young to understand," she said.

Maine was the first state to equip students statewide with



Kindergartener Lucius Rice, 6, center, demonstrates to Kindergarten teachers Sue larue, left to right, Kelly McCarthy and Amy Himerl, how to uses an iPad as literacy teacher Maurie Dufour, right, looks on, Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in Auburn, Maine.

computers when it distributed Apple laptops to all seventh- and eighth-graders in 2002 and 2003. The program has since expanded, with laptops parceled out to about 50 percent of high school students.

The state Department of Education says it believes Auburn is the first school district in Maine that will give iPads to kindergartners. The school board last week unanimously approved the plan to give all kindergartners iPads next fall.

The iPad is a powerful education tool with hundreds of teaching applications, Morrill said. With its touchpad screen, it's simple to use and can bring learning to life with imagery and sounds, he said.

"It's a revolution in education," Morrill said.

Apple spokeswoman Trudy Muller declined to comment

on how iPads are being used in schools, but dozens of school districts around the country have been giving iPads to students. Schools in Omaha, Neb.; Columbiana, Ohio; Huntington, W. Va.; Paducah, Ky.; Charleston, S.C.; and Scottsdale, Ariz., are among the places where kindergarten pupils are using them.

Angus King, the former Maine governor who launched the state's laptop program, said the idea of iPads in kindergarten

wows him. Anything that holds the attention of pupils will help in the learning process, he said.

"If your students are engaged, you can teach them anything," King said. "If they're bored and looking out the window, you can be Socrates and you're not going to teach them anything. These devices are engaging."

Morrill is convinced that in the end, using iPads to teach kindergarten will lead to improved student proficiency scores.

## Technology can blur teens' view of cheating

By HEIDI STEVENS  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A call that your teenager was caught cheating is hard to interpret as anything but bad news. But you can turn the incident into a learning experience—and maybe even a turning point.

In an age of cell phone cameras, Internet-enabled handheld devices and other technology, it's easier than ever to game the system.

"Our poor kids live in a world where the lines have been blurred," says Liz Perle, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Common Sense Media. "Downloading a song for free. Is that theft? But it's free. We have to look at our whole culture of electronic empowerment."

In a recent poll of more than 2,000 students and parents, Common Sense found that many teens aren't clear about what constitutes cheating. Twenty-three percent, for example, said storing notes on a phone to access during a test is not cheating, and 19 percent said downloading a paper from the Internet to turn in as your own is not cheating.

Which brings us to expert tip No. 1.

**1. Define cheating.** Refer to

the school's guidelines on the use of electronics, and lay out your own guidelines, too, Perle says: "Parents have to spell out: Sending another kid an answer or getting an answer from another kid? Cheating. Lifting material wholesale and plopping it down in your paper? Cheating. Be very clear about what is acceptable and what is not."

**2. Root out a cause.** Kids will tell you it's no big deal and everybody does it, says psychologist Jennifer Powell-Lunder, co-author of "Teenage as a Second Language" (Adams Media, \$14.95). "But you have to figure out why this is going on. 'Is the subject really difficult, and you don't get it?' 'Is it because you were texting all night and didn't study?' 'Are you feeling too much pressure from dad and me?' You want to pull for your child to step up and take responsibility."

**3. Don't belittle.** Say, "I love you. I think you're terrific. But we need to problem-solve this because cheating is taking away from yourself and taking away from other people," says Powell-Lunder, whose website, talkingteenage.com, offers tips on conducting tough conversations.

**4. Establish consequences.** The school has likely taken its

Heimerl, one of five kindergarten teachers in the district who got iPads on Tuesday, was impressed as she checked out apps for phonics, building words, letter recognition and letter formation.

"The more education teachers have using these tools the better we can enhance children's learning and take them to that next level," said Heimerl, a teacher at Park Avenue Elementary School.

Not everyone is sold. Larry Cuban, professor emeritus of education at Stanford University and the author of "Oversold and Underused: Computers in Schools," said there's no proof that computers bring learning benefits to pupils that young.

"There's no evidence in research literature that giving iPads to 5-year-olds will improve their reading scores," he said.

Peter Pizzolongo of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, based in Washington, said iPads can be an effective supplement to three-dimensional objects, whether they be books or building blocks.

"We can't say whether what the school district in Maine or anywhere else is doing is good or not good, but what we can say is when the iPad or any other technological tool is used appropriately, then it's a good thing for children's learning," he said.

own course of action, which you should never try to undo, says Perle. Let your child live with the fallout, and set up consequences at home as well. "Cellular solitary is very effective," says Perle. "No cell phone, no Internet, no Facebook. And establish that it's a zero tolerance policy because that's how important it is. Do not waffle."

**5. Survey the landscape.** Consider if your child is receiving mixed messages about honesty. "Let's say you have an older child who just applied to college and you wrote all those essays," says Powell-Lunder. "Maybe you were in the grocery store with your kid and they gave you incorrect change and you didn't say anything. This certainly isn't to suggest you taught your kid how to cheat, but we have to be aware of the very subtle ways that small things can be interpreted."

### Learning opportunity

Scholastic's website You Are What You Read lets kids and adults share the five books that most influenced their lives—and learn some favorites of more famous peers. ("Charlotte's Web" is on Taylor Swift's list). Go to [youarewhatyouread.com](http://youarewhatyouread.com).



Kindergartener Lucius Rice, 6, right, and literacy teacher Maurie Dufour, left, look at a book on an iPad Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in Auburn, Maine.

## Book of kids' drawings chronicles Mexico drug war

By GUSTAVO RUIZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**MORELIA, Mexico (AP)**—Children in a western Mexico state besieged by drug violence have helped produce a book that is full of images of shootouts, kidnappings, robberies and grenade attacks that kids are increasingly being exposed to.

The book, "The Mexico I Live," was released Tuesday by the Michoacan state Human Rights Commission and a local university. It contains 45 drawings, most of them of bloody scenes and shootouts taking place outside supermarkets or parks.

One drawing highlights a scene outside a supermarket where a federal police officer is firing his automatic weapon

while a man in a baseball cap tosses a grenade at him.

Another child drew the lifeless body of a man who had been shot six times in the stomach and is lying on a pool of blood while his attacker stands over him holding an automatic rifle.

The drawings were selected from a 2010 competition that had called on children between the ages of 7 and 12 to draw pictures alluding to Mexico's 200 years since the start of its battle for independence from Spain. Instead, children drew about their experiences with drug violence.

The pictures "show explicit images of a society devoted to drug trafficking, violence and of abuses against minors," said university professor Araceli Colin, who was part of the se-

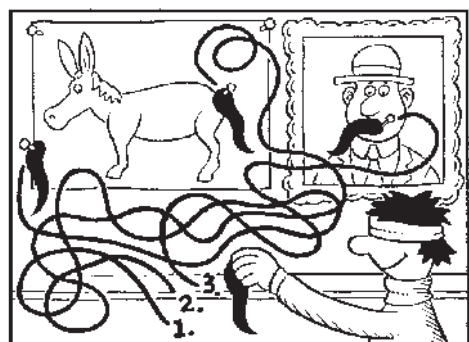
lection committee.

Michoacan is the home territory of the violent La Familia drug cartel, which has mounted several ambush-style attacks on police in the last two years.

Children are increasingly falling victim to the brutal violence of Mexico's drug war, a conflict that has killed more than 34,000 people since December 2006, when President Felipe Calderon first launched an all-out offensive against cartels in his home state of Michoacan.

The nonprofit group Network for the Rights of Children in Mexico estimates 994 children and youths under 18 were killed in drug violence between late 2006 and late 2010 across the country, and says the number has risen since then.





**A TICKLISH TAIL!** Can you guess on which try Henry managed to stick the tail on the donkey?

Answer: On try number two.



**DOODLE PICS!** The two pictures shown here are graphic presentations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

Answer: 1. Fool's gold. 2. Dead heat.

**CALLING ALL PUZZLEBOTS!** At the right is a Word Square grid. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below. All words used must read the same both across and down.

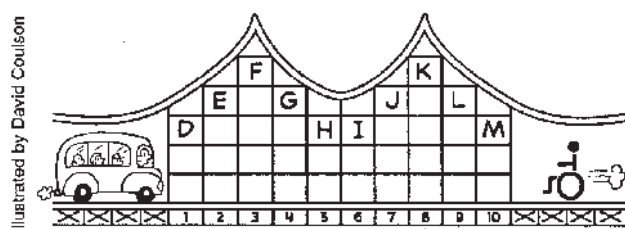
1. A mechanical device (given).
2. A color and a fruit.
3. What a puppy is.
4. Found in bakeries.
5. Brief and to the point.

Answers: 1. Robot. 2. Olive. 3. Biter. 4. Ovens. 5. Terse.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE

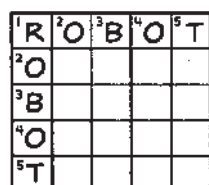


Illustrated by David Coulson

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. To tap gently; pat.
2. What a high tide does.
3. A type of witty play.
4. To stare or gape stupidly.
5. An evil spell; a curse.
6. To irritate or vex.
7. To tease good-humoredly.
8. Small, flightless birds.
9. A business trademark.
10. To make exaggerated facial expressions.

Answers: 1. Dab. 2. Ebbs. 3. Farce. 4. Gaww. 5. Hex. 6. Ick. 7. Josh. 8. Kiwis. 9. Logo. 10. Mug.



## Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins who made the following sage observation: "We are all atheists about most of the gods that societies have ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further."

■ It's been reported that for one two-year stretch, Elvis Presley ate nothing but meat loaf, mashed potatoes and tomatoes.

■ In parts of Asia, tradition holds that if you sneeze once, someone is saying something good about you; if you sneeze twice in a row, something bad is being said; if you sneeze three times, someone is in love with you; and if you sneeze more than three times, you're about to catch a cold.

■ If you're like the average human, you have about 1,500 dreams every year.

■ We all know that the phrase "dog days of summer" refers to the most sultry days of the year, but have you ever wondered where the term came from? It seems that the ancient Romans believed that when Sirius, known as the dog star, shined the brightest—which was during mid-summer—it added its heat to the heat of the sun, making the hot season even more unbearable.

■ Libra is the only sign of the zodiac that is not an animal.

■ Even if you don't remember it from its original air dates in the 1950s and '60s, you surely have heard of the iconic American situation comedy "Leave It to Beaver." You might not realize, though, that the original working title was "Wally and the Beaver." The producers thought that made it sound like a show about a boy and his pet, so they changed it.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A conservative is a man who believes that nothing should be done for the first time."—Alfred E. Wiggam

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

## MAGIC MAZE • TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES

F Y V T Q O L I G D B Y W T R  
P M K Y I F D B Y W E U S Q O  
M K I H B L O O D S T O N E F  
D D B Z T U D N E S I X W N U  
S Q L O N N R R Y L L J H O F  
D C A A O Y I H L X O W V T T  
S Z Q M R H T C R P S P E S N  
L J A S P E R K A I Y N T N H  
F I E P M C M L E Y R B A O Z  
D Y A A O W V E P A H U G O S  
R S Q P N T M L G J C I A M H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Agate	Emerald	Moonstone	Ruby
Amethyst	Garnet	Onyx	Sapphire
Bloodstone	Hyacinth	Opal	Topaz
Chrysolite	Jasper	Pearl	

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

## GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

**DIFFICULTY: ★**

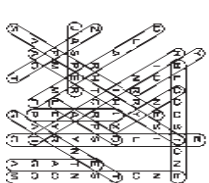
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		13
÷		-		×	
	×		+		17
+		×		+	
	÷		+		9
11		27		13	

1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

© 2011 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



TRADITIONAL BIRTHSTONES

## GO FIGURE ANSWER

11		27		13	
	÷		-		×
	×		+		17
	+		×		+
	÷		+		9
11		27		13	

## Choosing a family pet

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** We're visiting a breeder soon who is offering a new litter of puppies for sale. She says we should visit a few times to find the right puppy for our family. How do we choose the best of the litter?—Kay S., Bowden, Ala.

**DEAR KAY:** I don't think there's always a "best" puppy in a litter. However, there is the right "fit" for your family. For example, outgoing pups may do best with a family, while shy dogs work better with individuals.

The breeder is offering to let you visit several times to find the best fit, which is a great selection method (and one mark of a good breeder). Often, such visits are spaced over several weeks, from a couple weeks after the puppies' birth to the time they are ready to leave (eight or more weeks).

Because you will be spending quite a bit of money on a new dog, be observant during visits and ask questions. Make sure the puppies' living area is clean and that they all look healthy, happy and relaxed. Hold and play with puppies that interest you and watch their behavior around your children. As the weeks pass, observe their growth and the maturation of motor skills and awareness.



Paw's corner

by Sam Mazzotta

The breeder will be observing you during this time as well. After all, she doesn't want to send well-bred puppies to owners who won't care for them. It's not unusual for professional breeders to refuse to sell a puppy to someone they have doubts about. Remember, the deal isn't done until both sides agree that the dog you pick is the best fit for you, and the papers are signed.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions, tips or comments to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com), or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Create an 'egg plant' with Easter eggs

Shake and decorate hollowed-out Easter eggs, then save them as keepsakes to display from year to year as a whimsical "egg plant" centerpiece. The lovely eggs, together with other favorites, can be "blooming" out of a pretty Easter basket, a medium-size flowerpot or several mini containers lined down the center of your table or along a windowsill.

### Here are three easy steps for an afternoon of fun:

#### 1. BLOWING EGGS

To empty an egg, poke a small hole with a straight pin at each end of a washed raw egg. Carefully wiggle a toothpick or wooden skewer into one of the holes to break the yolk. Place a drinking straw over the hole on top, and blow through the straw, collecting the contents of the egg in a small dish. Rinse out the empty shell and let dry. Store in an empty egg carton until ready to use.

#### 2. SHAKE AND DECORATE

First, poke wooden skewers into a chunk of floral foam. Set aside. Scoop several tablespoons of brightly colored sand (available at toy and craft stores) into a clear plastic sandwich bag. Squeeze household glue from a plastic bottle in a simple design, such as zig-zags or an alphabet letter, onto a blown egg that is still white or dyed in a light color. Carefully set the egg in the plastic bag and close it lightly in your fist, keeping locked air inside. Gently shake the bag of sand to coat the glue on the egg to reveal the design you made. Remove the egg with your fingers and slip it onto one of the wooden skewers through the hole in the shell, making sure the skewer doesn't go through the hole at the opposite end.

#### 3. DISPLAY

Set the floral foam with skewers and

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



decorated eggs in a flowerpot or Easter basket. Rearrange the skewers to balance the arrangement of budding egg "flowers." Add other decorated eggs you might have saved from previous years. Cover the foam with green moss or colorful Easter paper grass.

Extra idea: This year I lined a medium-size Easter basket with plastic, scooped potting soil inside and sprinkled wheat grass seeds on top. I kept it damp until the seeds sprouted. The green grass grew tall with sunshine and watering in just 10 days.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit [www.donnasday.com](http://www.donnasday.com) and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

(c) 2011 Donna Erickson

Distributed by King Features Synd.



## Life &amp; Style

# World's oldest man dies in Montana at 114

**GREAT FALLS, Mont.** (AP)—Walter Breuning's earliest memories stretched back 111 years, before home entertainment came with a twist of the radio dial. They were of his grandfather's tales of killing Southerners in the Civil War.

Breuning was 3 and horrified: "I thought that was a hell of a thing to say."

But the stories stuck, becoming the first building blocks into what would develop into a deceptively simple philosophy that Breuning, the world's oldest man at 114 before he died Thursday, credited to his longevity.

Here's the world's oldest man's secret to a long life:

- Embrace change, even when the change slaps you in the face. ("Every change is good.")

- Eat two meals a day ("That's all you need.")

- Work as long as you can ("That money's going to come in handy.")

- Help others ("The more you do for others, the better shape you're in.")

Then there's the hardest part. It's a lesson Breuning said he learned from his grandfather: Accept death.

"We're going to die. Some people are scared of dying. Never be afraid to die. Because you're born to die," he said.

Breuning died of natural causes in a Great Falls hospital where he had been a patient for much of April with an undisclosed illness, said Stacia Kirby, spokeswoman for the Rainbow Senior Living retirement home where Breuning lived.

He was the oldest man in the world and the second-oldest person, according to the Los Angeles-based Gerontology Research Group. Besse Cooper of Monroe, Ga.—born 26 days earlier—is the world's oldest person.

In an interview with The Associated Press at his home in the Rainbow Retirement Community in Great Falls last October, Breuning recounted the past century—and what its revelations and advances meant to him—with the wit and plain-spokenness that defined him. His life story is, in a way, a slice of the story of the country itself over more than a century.

At the beginning of the new century—that's the 20th century—Breuning moved with his family from Melrose, Minn., to De Smet, S.D., where his father had taken a job as an engineer.

That first decade of the 1900s was literally a dark age for his family. They had no electricity or running water. A bath for young Walter would require his mother to fetch water from the well outside and heat it on the coal-burning stove. When

they wanted to get around, they had three options: train, horse and foot.

His parents split up and Breuning moved back to Minnesota in 1912. The following year, as Henry Ford was creating his first assembly line, the teenager got a low-level job with the Great Northern Railway in Melrose.

"I'm 16 years old, had to go to work on account of breakup of the family," he said.

That was the beginning of a 50-year career on the railroad. He was a clerk for most of that time, working seven days a week.

In 1918, his boss was promoted to a position in Great Falls and he asked Breuning to come along.

There wasn't a lot keeping Breuning in Minnesota. His mother had died the year before at age 46 and his father died in 1915 at age 50. The Montana job came with a nice raise—\$90 a month for working seven days a week, "a lot of money at that time," he said.

Breuning, young and alone, was overwhelmed at first. Great Falls was a bustling town of 25,000 with hundreds of people coming and going every day on trains that arrived at all hours.

"You go down to the depot and there'd be 500 people out there all climbing into four trains going in four directions," he said.

World War I was still raging in Europe, and Breuning, who had just turned 20, signed up for military service but wasn't called up. He wanted to join an Army unit formed by Ralph Budd, who was the railroad's vice president at the time and who later would become its president.

He sent Budd an application, and the reply was disappointing. Budd said Breuning couldn't join the unit because he wanted the young man to get a college education. The war ended later that year.

"So I never got into the war. The war ended too quick for me," Breuning said.

The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote in 1919 and the nation was riding a post-war wave into the Roaring '20s.

Walter Breuning bought his first car that year.

It was a secondhand Ford and cost just \$150. Breuning remembered driving around town and spooking the horses that still crowded the dirt streets.

"We had more damn run-aways back in those days," Breuning said. "Horses are just scared of cars."

The year may have started well, but it went downhill fast. Drought struck. The price of hay skyrocketed and farmers had to sell their cattle. It was the first wave of agricultural depressions

that would hit Montana over the next two decades.

The railroad started laying off people. Breuning had some seniority, so rather than losing his job, he was transferred to Butte. It was there he met his future wife, Agnes.

Agnes Twokey worked for the railroad as a telegrapher. She and Breuning worked the same shift in the office, and they got along well. Their friendship turned into a two-year courtship, and then they got married and returned to Great Falls.

Things were looking up for Breuning, Montana and the nation. Great Falls gave Montana its first licensed radio station in 1922. The following year, Jack Dempsey and Tommy Gibbons fought for the world heavyweight championship east of Great Falls in Shelby.

Breuning was optimistic. He and his wife bought property for \$15 and planned to build a house.

Then it all went off the tracks. The Great Depression struck.

"Everybody got laid off in the '30s," Breuning said. "Nobody had any money at all. In 1933, they built the civic center over here. Sixty-five cents an hour, you know. That was the wage—big wage."

People began to arrive in Great Falls searching for work. He recalled transplants from North Dakota telling tales of desperate families pulling weeds from the ground and cooking them up for food.

Breuning's seniority paid off again—he held onto his job. But he and his wife never built their house. They sold the lot for \$25, making a tidy \$10 profit. It turned out to be the only time Breuning ever owned property—he was renter for the rest of his life.

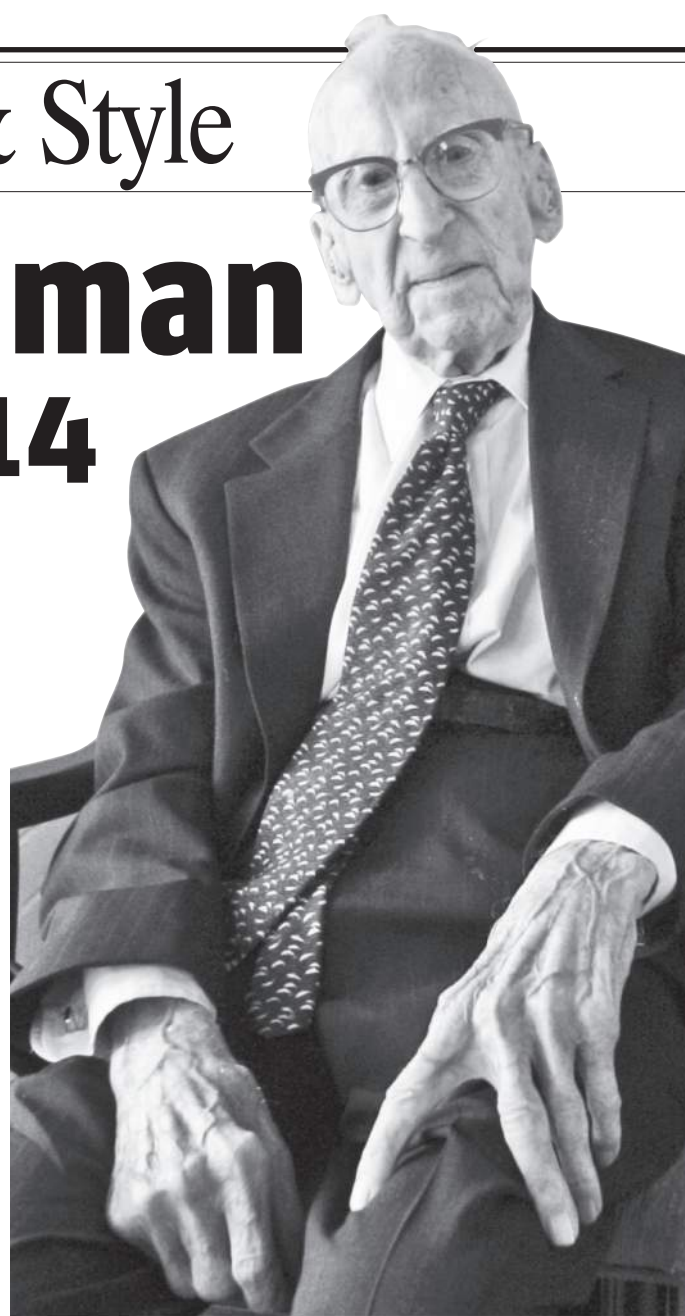
Despite the hard times of the decade, he said what he considered the nation's greatest achievement came in 1935, when President Franklin Roosevelt signed Social Security into law as part of his New Deal.

"I think when Roosevelt created Social Security, he probably did the best thing for people," Breuning said. "You hear so much about throwing Social Security out. Don't look for it. Hang on to your hat. It'll never go away."

World War II lifted the nation out of its economic slump. Industry went into overdrive to support the war. With the men headed overseas to fight, the women took their places in factories.

Montana's Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress, was the sole vote against the U.S. entry into the war.

By that time, Breuning was in his 40s and too old to be drafted. So he kept working



114 year old Walter Breuning sits for an interview with a reporter for the Associated Press in the lobby of his senior residence in Great Falls, Mont., on Oct. 6, 2010.

AP

Burlington Northern Railroad.

His fellow clerks began to feel the effects of technology. In the 1970s, computers started changing industries and the need for manpower. At the railroad, men and women were laid off at depots and freight offices. Superintendents and clerks like Breuning were given their walking papers.

But even with so many of his former co-workers out of jobs, Breuning was adamant that the rise of the computer was good for the railroad industry and the world.

"I think every change that we've ever made, ever since I was a child—100 years—every change has been good for the people," Breuning said. "My God, we used to have to write with pen and ink, you know, (for) everything. When the machines came, it just made life so much easier."

Breuning had lived in a sparse studio apartment in the Rainbow Senior Living retirement center since 1980.

When he was recognized as the world's oldest man and brought the retirement home some notoriety, he was offered a larger room. Breuning said no, Rainbow executive director Tina Bundtrock said in October.

Breuning would spend his days in an armchair outside the Bundtrock's office in a dark suit and tie, sitting near a framed Guinness certificate proclaiming him the world's oldest man.

He would eat breakfast and lunch and then retire to his room in the early afternoon. He'd visit the doctor just twice a year for checkups and the only medication he would take was aspirin, Bundtrock said.

His good health was due to his strict diet of two meals a day, Breuning said.

"How many people in this country say that they can't take the weight off?" he said. "I tell these people, I says, 'Get on a diet and stay on it. You'll find that you're in much better shape, feel good.'"

He had no family left but a niece and a nephew. They visited a couple of times at the retirement home, but they were strangers to him, he said.

Breuning's real family, his support group, was there in the Rainbow.

"Yeah, we're all one big family, I tell you that. We all talk to each other all the time. That's what keeps life going. You talk," he said.

Breuning talked current affairs with the other residents. One of his main causes was to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"War never cured anything. Look at the North and South right today. They're still fighting over the damn war. They'll never get over that," he said.

See WORLD'S on next page

on the railroad.

The man who otherwise preached kindness and service to others acknowledged that he had mixed feelings about the war and the Nazis. He expressed some sympathy toward Hitler.

The war ended in 1945 when President Harry Truman dropped the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The debate over whether Truman did the right thing was argued in the streets and cafes of Great Falls.

Breuning stuck up for Truman, saying there probably would have been a lot more people killed had Truman not made the decision to bomb the Japanese.

"I think he did pretty dang good," Breuning said. "But you know, all presidents done something good. Well, most of them. Except that last one."

Breuning, a self-described Republican, meant President George W. Bush.

"He got us into war. We can't get out of war now," he said. "I voted for him. But that's about all. His father was a pretty good president, not too bad. The kid had too much power. He got himself wrapped up and that's it."

The 1950s brought rock-and-roll, put the U.S. in the middle of the Korean War and kicked off the space race with the USSR's launch of Sputnik. The world was introduced to Elvis Presley, Fidel Castro and Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

For Walter Breuning, the 1950s was marked by the death of his wife. Agnes died in 1957 after 35 years of marriage. The couple didn't have any children.

More than 50 years later, Breuning kept his feelings on his marriage and Agnes' death guarded.

"We got along very good," was about all he'd say. "She wouldn't like to spend money, I'll tell you that."

Breuning never remarried. "Thought about it. That's about it."

He did what he always did. He kept working.

Work was a constant in Breuning's life, what he did to get through the hard times and what he used to keep his mind active. One of the worst things a person can do is retire young, Breuning said.

"I remember we had a worker in the First National Bank one time retired early. He wanted to go fishing and hunting so bad. Two months (later) and he went back to the bank. He got his fishing and hunting all done and he wanted to go back to work," Breuning said.

"Don't retire until you're darn sure that you can't work anymore. Keep on working as long as you can work and you'll find that it's good for you," he added.

The same year the Beatles released their first album, Breuning decided it was time for him to retire from the railroad at age 67. It was 1963 and he had put in 50 years as a railroad worker.

But he stuck by his philosophy and kept working. He became the manager and secretary for the local chapter of the Shriners, a position he held until he was 99.

But he remained a fiercely loyal railroad man, so loyal that he only took an airplane once in his life, and that was to attend the funeral of a relative in Minneapolis.

His beloved railroad underwent many changes soon after he left. In 1970 it merged with other railroad companies to become the



# Another finalist booted on 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul McDonald kept grinning despite being gouged on "American Idol."

The smiley singer-songwriter from Nashville, Tenn., was revealed to have received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent contest Thursday after kicking off Wednesday's film-themed performances with Bob Seger's "Old Time Rock and Roll" from "Risky Business." Jennifer Lopez requested the 26-year-old sing Rod Stewart's "Maggie May" as his swan song, and he happily obliged.

"C'mon, man, let's not get sad about this," he said after his dismissal.

McDonald was joined in the bottom three by Stefano Langone, the smooth 21-year-old singer from Kent, Wash., who powered through Boyz II Men's "End of the Road" from "Boomerang," and Haley Reinhart, the bluesy 20-year-old college student from Wheeling, Ill., who growled Blondie's "Call Me" from "American Gigolo."

Before the elimination, the eight finalists teamed up for various performances. This season's youngest remaining singers, 17-year-old Scotty Mc-

Creery and 16-year-old Lauren Alaina, dueted on Lady Antebellum's "American Honey," and Reinhart joined Casey Abrams, the 20-year-old film camp counselor of Idyllwild, Calif., for the jazz standard "Moanin'."

"They sound like they've been doing it all their lives," said "Idol" judge Lopez.

McDonald joined Langone, 23-year-old spa concierge Jacob Lusk of Compton, Calif., and 22-year-old rocker James Durbin of Santa Cruz, Calif., for Simon and Garfunkel's "The Sound of Silence" and "Mrs. Robinson." Rihanna also crooned "California King Bed," and first season "Idol" champ Kelly Clarkson performed her duet "Don't You Wanna Stay" with Jason Aldean.

McDonald, the offbeat vocalist who waltzed through the competition with his signature bright smile, raspy tone and wacky dance moves, is the first male contestant to be booted from the 10th season. Abrams was announced to have received the fewest viewer votes three weeks ago, but the judges used their one-time-only power to save him from elimination.

## Sorry, Charlie: Studio denies 'Men' return talks

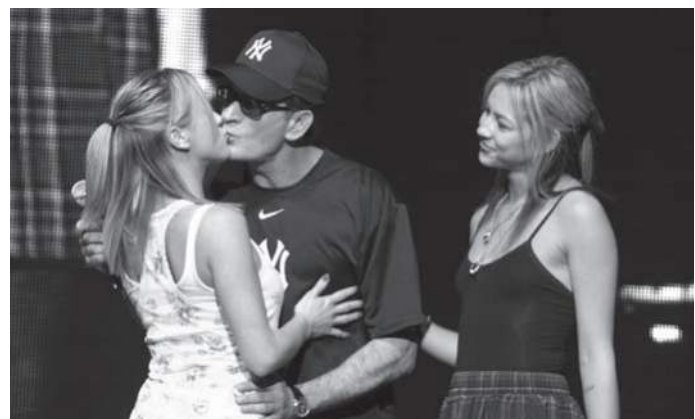
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lawyers for the studio behind "Two and a Half Men" are rejecting Charlie Sheen's claim that he's in talks to return to the hit CBS sitcom.

A letter Thursday from attorneys for Warner Bros. Television to Sheen's lawyer dismisses as "false" Sheen's comments that discussions are under way to reinstate him. Details of the letter were confirmed by a person close to the situation who requested anonymity because they lacked authority to speak publicly.

Sheen told a Boston radio station Tuesday that there was an "85 percent" chance of his returning to "Two and a Half Men." He was fired last month after outbursts directed at the show's producer.

The letter from the firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson to Sheen's attorney, Marty Singer, says there are no discussions regarding Sheen rejoining "Two and a Half Men" and there will be none.

A call to Singer was not immediately returned.



Charlie Sheen appears onstage with his "Goddesses" Natalie Kenley, right, and Rachel Oberlin at his "Violent Torpedo of Truth" show at Radio City Music Hall in New York, Friday, April 8, 2011.

## Samuel L. Jackson to make his Broadway debut

NEW YORK (AP)—Samuel L. Jackson will make his Broadway debut this fall as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

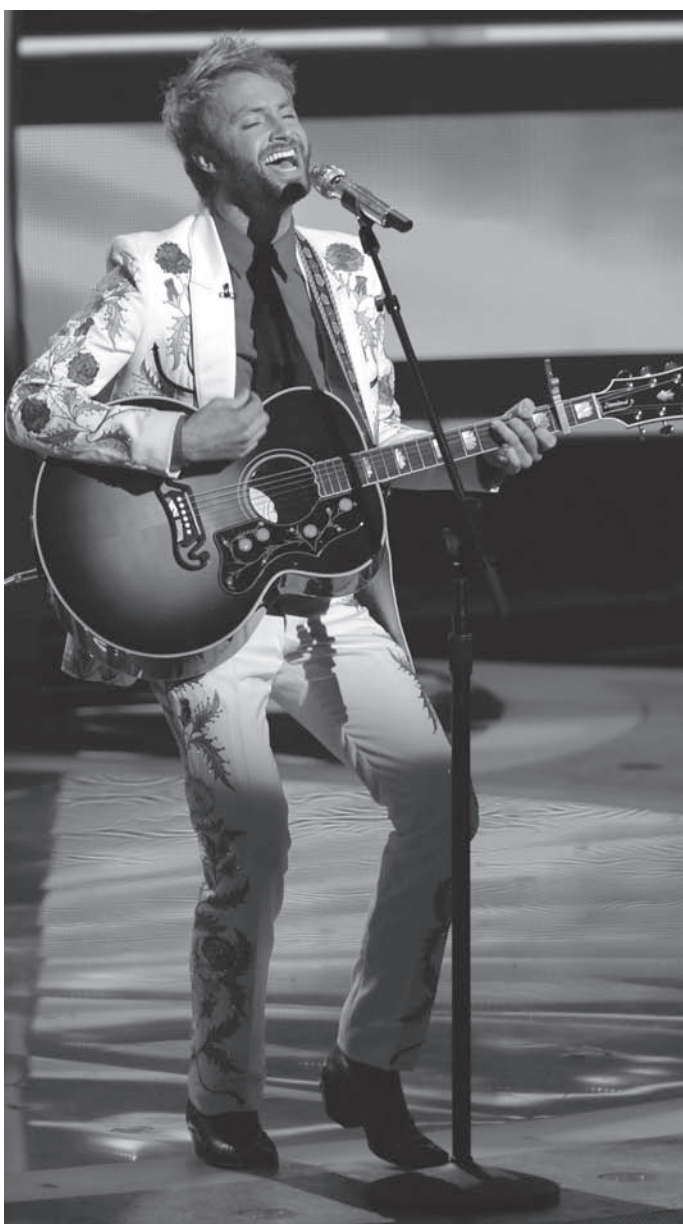
Producers of "The Mountaintop" said Thursday that the Academy Award-nominated actor will star in the play that re-

magine the night before the civil rights leader's assassination.

The play, by Katori Hall, made its debut in London in 2009. It had been rumored that Halle Berry would join Jackson but producers said "child custody issues" ruled her out.



Jackson



In this Wednesday, March 30, 2011 file photo released by Fox, Paul McDonald performs in front of the judges on the singing competition series, "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

## Prince William invites entire unit to his wedding

LONDON (AP)—Members of Prince William's search-and-rescue unit say all 27 of them have been invited to attend the royal wedding later this month.

Crew members of the C Flight 22 unit at Royal Air Force Valley on the Welsh island of Anglesey say that they and their partners will be attending the ceremony at Westminster Abbey on April 29.

Flight Cmdr. Iain "Spike" Wright, William's line manager, said he was dumbfounded by the invitation, saying it was a "great honor" and would be "quite good fun."

Flight Lt. Thomas "Sticky" Bunn, said Thursday that the Buckingham Palace-stamped invitation was "not something you see every day."

Other search-and-rescue crews will pitch in to help cover the unit's shifts while they take three days off for the festivities.

Performances on Broadway will begin Sept. 22 at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre on 45th Street. The official opening is set for Oct. 13.

Jackson, known for films like "Pulp Fiction" and "Snakes on a Plane," originated roles in two of August Wilson's plays at Yale Repertory Theatre and appeared at the New York Shakespeare Festival.

## Tips on hotel etiquette turn couple into pampered guests

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I recently returned from a vacation where we had a disagreement regarding hotel service and towels.

Regarding the towels, my wife thinks we should hang them to dry daily for reuse later. I say the cost of washing the towels is included in the price of the room, and I want a fresh towel daily.

The other issue is my wife feels obligated to tip the housekeeping staff. I have never felt that obligation. Not a single housekeeper has been exceptional, regardless of the hotel we stayed in.

We're hoping you could shed some light on hotel etiquette.

WEST VIRGINIA TRAVELER

**DEAR TRAVELER:** Your wife appears to be a conservationist. Although you prefer fresh towels daily, many travelers voluntarily forgo this service to help hotels conserve water and save energy. If you prefer to do otherwise, that's your privilege—and it's not worth arguing over.

As to tipping the housekeeping staff, has it occurred to you that you have never received exceptional service because you never offered a tip? Some hotel guests talk to the housekeeper at the time they arrive to request extra hangers, soap, washcloths, etc.—and offer a gratuity at that time. And when they do, the staff usually goes out of their way to be accommodating. Try it—they need the extra money, and they'll spoil you if you let them.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, "Parker," and I have a 4-year-old son, "Ethan." Recently, my mother-in-law suggested we have a will drawn up, stating who will take care of Ethan if something happens to us. She's an attorney and has offered to do it for us.

Parker and I agree that it is a good idea and appreciate her offer to do the paperwork. The problem? We don't want her raising our son. We have another relative in mind.

My mother-in-law is a nice enough person and would not be cruel or abusive to Ethan, but she was not a good mother to Parker and his siblings. She's extremely selfish and self-absorbed. We know she'll be extremely offended if we don't name her as our child's guardian.

I would like to hire another attorney, but she will take offense to that as well. She hasn't stopped hounding us about this issue. Please tell us how to handle this.

TRAPPED IN THE GOLDEN STATE

**DEAR TRAPPED:** Hire an attorney and have the document drawn up. And when your mother-in-law raises the subject again, you and Parker should thank her and tell her it has already been done, so she doesn't have to worry about it anymore. The woman may be selfish and self-absorbed, but she is absolutely right that you should have your wishes put in writing.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I were taught differently regarding how to serve ourselves a meal. Typically, we each "plate up" a desired amount of food in the kitchen, where it is prepared, rather than bring serving dishes to the table. Then we carry our plates to the table to eat.

Should my husband serve himself first (as I was taught the cook/hostess is served last), or should I go first (as he was taught women precede men)?

DINERS' DILEMMA

**DEAR D.D.:** You're not "the hostess"; you are the wife. If your husband wishes to defer to you, let him spoil you. You'll both be happier that way.

P.S. I'm sure you can find a way to spoil him back.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

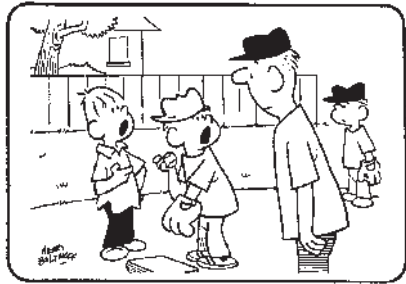
Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



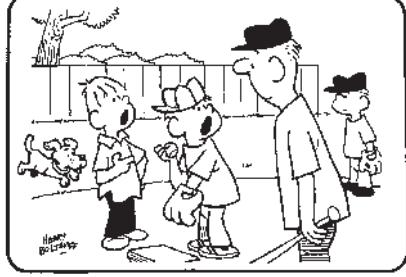




HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

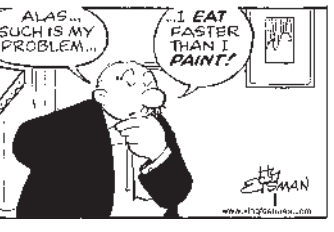
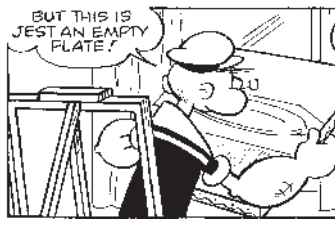
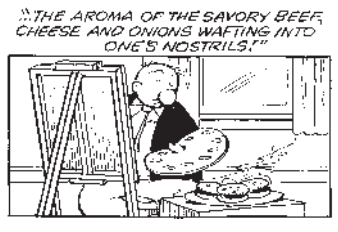
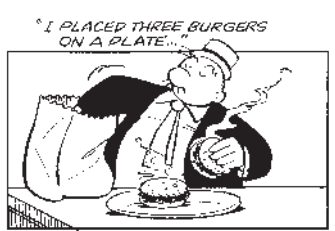
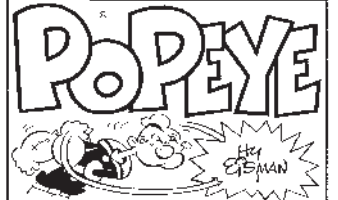


Differences: 1. Boy's shoes are black. 2. House is gone. 3. Boy's hat is different. 4. Dog is in the background. 5. Man is holding a bat. 6. Extra shrubs near the fence.

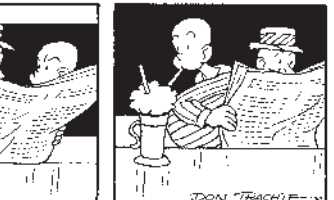
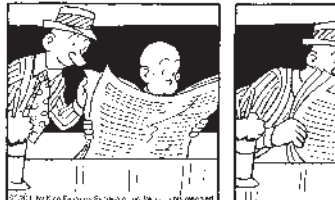
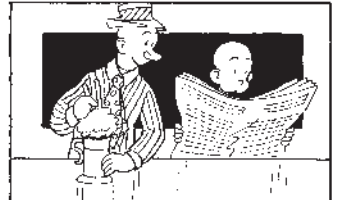
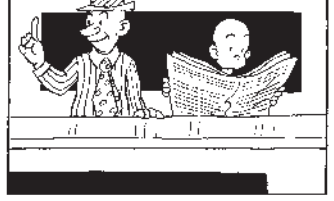
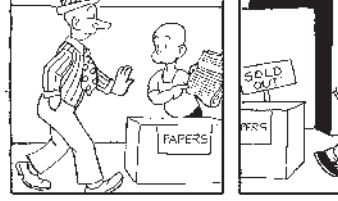
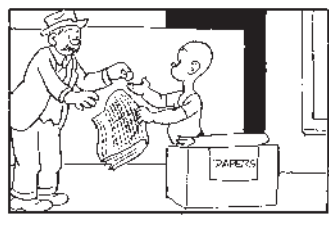
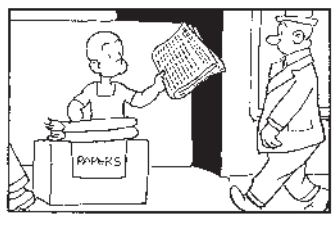
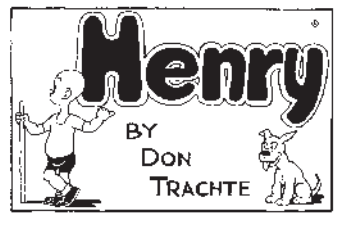
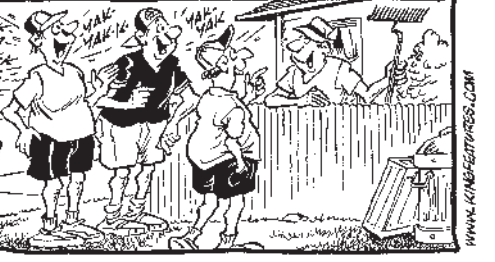
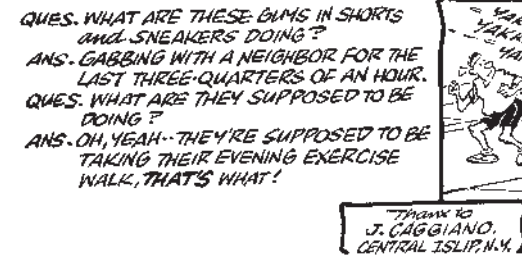
Wishing Well®

3	8	5	4	3	4	6	5	6	4	7	5	7
S	E	S	U	O	N	D	W	Y	I	E	I	X
5	4	2	5	6	3	8	3	7	3	4	2	4
T	O	G	C	N	F	M	T	E	H	N	R	O
7	5	8	6	4	7	4	5	3	4	8	3	4
R	H	P	A	F	C	I	I	E	D	H	A	E
7	5	2	7	6	8	4	8	2	3	6	5	3
I	N	E	S	M	A	A	S	A	R	I	G	T
5	6	5	3	6	4	6	8	7	2	8	5	7
S	C	T	E	C	S	A	I	E	T	Z	R	C
3	5	2	5	7	2	7	8	5	8	5	6	5
D	A	J	T	A	O	U	E	E	G	G	R	Y
6	8	7	6	2	8	6	8	7	8	2	7	7
E	O	T	E	Y	A	R	L	I	S	S	O	N

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

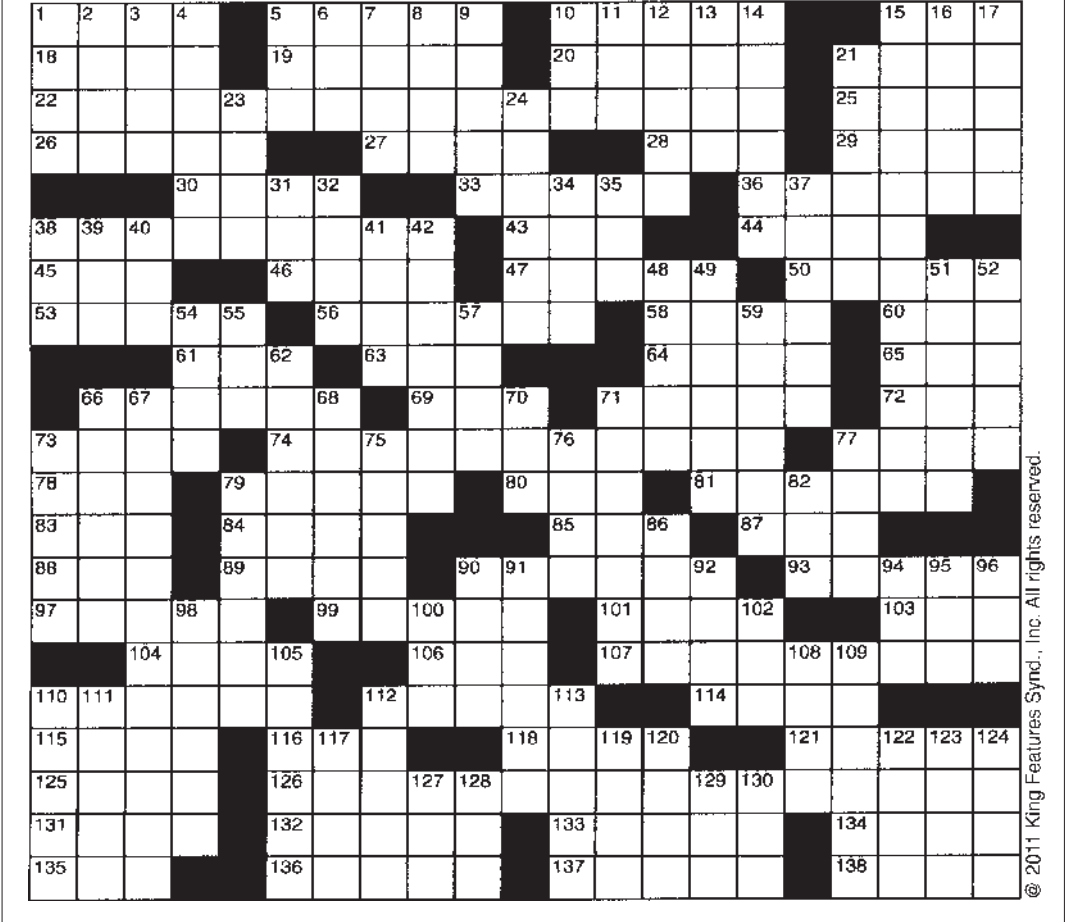


They'll Do It Every Time



Super Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Renowned rabbit
  - 5 Iraqi port
  - 10 Wing it
  - 15 Iowa hrs.
  - 18 PDQ, politely
  - 19 Synthetic fiber
  - 20 Artemis, in Rome
  - 21 Costa —
  - 22 Beatrix Potter book
  - 25 "L'—, c'est moi"
  - 26 Stadium
  - 27 Whirl
  - 28 — Dawn Chong
  - 29 '60s talk-show host
  - 30 "— go brag!"
  - 33 Latin rhythm
  - 36 Cooks chestnuts
  - 38 "Hee Haw" regular
  - 43 "Cara —" ('65 song)
  - 44 Dirty
  - 45 Maris of "Nurses"
  - 46 Verve
  - 47 Islamic deity
  - 50 Wander
  - 53 VDT unit
  - 56 Creative type
  - 58 John of "Madame X"
  - 60 — Magnon
  - 61 Droop
  - 63 Composer Rorem
  - 64 Ordered
  - 65 Herriman feline
  - 66 Wont
  - 69 Archery item
  - 71 Fathers a foal
  - 72 Get by, with "out"
  - 73 Identical
  - 74 Killjoys
  - 77 "—, bien!"
  - 78 Sphere
  - 79 "The Color Purple" character
  - 80 "Well, I'll be!"
  - 81 Modern malady
  - 83 Rimsky-Korsakov's "Le Coq —"
  - 84 Got off
  - 85 Fitting
  - 87 Organ of equilibrium
  - 88 Sevilla shout
  - 89 Arm bone
  - 90 Kathy of country
  - 93 Pageant prop
  - 97 Gets mushy
  - 99 Feathered friend?
  - 101 Poorly
  - 103 Drag along
  - 104 Mortgage, for one
  - 106 Gentle — lamb
  - 107 '68 Temptations song
  - 110 Bearse or Blake
  - 112 World-weary
  - 114 Zeno's home
  - 115 Horror-film extras
  - 116 — Aviv
  - 118 Marx or Malden
  - 121 "Later, Lulu!"
  - 125 Anesthetize an audience
  - 126 '80 Eddie Rabbitt hit
  - 131 Hurler
  - 132 Feelings
  - 133 Vestige
  - 134 Hawaii's state bird
  - 135 Present for pop
  - 136 Steen stand
  - 137 Long-legged wader
  - 138 British school
  - 4 Grand relative
  - 5 Showy scarf
  - 6 French sculptor
  - 7 Disparage
  - 8 Emulated the Valkyries
  - 9 24 Down's home
  - 10 Citrus cooler
  - 11 Accomplished
  - 12 Designer Ashley
  - 13 Cuzco native
  - 14 They make lots of dough
  - 15 '91 Billy Crystal film
  - 16 Inadequate
  - 17 "Soap" family
  - 21 Fix
  - 23 Creche figure
  - 24 Domestic guanacos
  - 31 Rage
  - 32 Vincent Lopez's theme song
  - 34 Cheerful tune
  - 35 Maglie or Mineo
  - 37 Heaps
  - 38 AAA
  - 39 A mean Amin
  - 40 Baseball's Steve
  - 41 Caution
  - 42 "Raid on —" ('77 film)
  - 48 Activist Hoffman
  - 49 TV's "— Afire"
  - 51 Actor Jonathan
  - 52 Shoppers' sacks
  - 54 Otherwise
  - 55 73 Down escapee
  - 57 Adored one
  - 59 "— Fideles"
  - 62 Former military chairman
  - 66 King or Lombard
  - 67 American magnolia
  - 68 Actress
  - 69 Mercuri
  - 70 Witty one
  - 71 Doubter
  - 73 Biblical city
  - 75 Cronus, for one
  - 76 Tidy
  - 77 Austin or Garr
  - 79 Brought about
  - 82 Inform
  - 86 Inform
  - 90 Southwest-ern sight
  - 91 Skagway's
  - 92 Shampoo additive
  - 94 Mohammed — Jinnah
  - 95 Pantyhose problem
  - 96 Mellow
  - 98 Tree trim
  - 100 "For Me and My —" ('17 song)
  - 102 Actor Brynner
  - 105 Homegrown
  - 108 "Big Bad John" singer
  - 109 Novelist Gordimer
  - 110 Head monk
  - 111 Native New Zealander
  - 112 Hunks of gunk
  - 113 Big revolver?
  - 117 Director Kazan
  - 119 Hard to find
  - 120 Inventive sort?
  - 122 "— Around" ('64 hit)
  - 123 "What have I done!"
  - 124 British gun
  - 127 Center of gravity?
  - 128 New citizen's subj.
  - 129 Sgt. or cpl.
  - 130 Kyoto currency



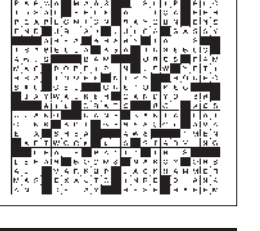
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Duncan Jones, director of "Source Code," is the son of what famous rock musician?
- 2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is a dirk?
- 3. TELEVISION: What TV show propelled the career of comedian Robin Williams?
- 4. GEOGRAPHY: Rabat is the capital of what African nation?
- 5. HISTORY: What Nazi war criminal was captured in Argentina 15 years after World War II ended?
- 6. MYTHOLOGY: In what legend does the Sheriff of Nottingham play a major role?
- 7. INVENTIONS: Daimler was an early designer of what kind of machine?
- 8. MEASUREMENTS: Which month of the year is named for Mars, the Roman god of war?
- 9. LITERATURE: What literary form did Thespis invent?
- 10. ANATOMY: Where is the appendix in the human body?

The Spats



Saturday's Answers



Answers: 1. David Bowie, 2. Long dagger, 3. Mark and Minky, 4. Morocco, 5. Adolf Eichmann, 6. Robin Hood



# CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

All 2 Brawl 4

Find today's solution in this section

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2 MECHANICS AND  
1 INDUSTRIAL  
ELECTRICIAN WITH  
MOTOR GENERATOR  
REWINDING  
EXPERIENCE

Salary: \$6.00 - 7.50 / hour  
Contact: PMIC Power Plant 4  
Telephone#: 322-6181  
Email: cve@pmic.us

"I want to go shopping!"

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,  
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913  
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293  
Email: mavf@guam.wish.org • www.wish.org  
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

SaipanTribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/  
24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi &  
ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA  
applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/  
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH  
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.  
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up  
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-  
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH  
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.  
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up  
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-  
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.  
For \$200.00 / month  
Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for water truck, 3k to 3.5k gals/cap.  
Must be in good cond. Call 235-6527/28  
or 285-1317 look for Jeremy or Norma

Garfield®

By Bill Waterson

SWALLOW BREAKFAST  
BEFORE YOU EAT LUNCH

OH, MAN...

By Glenn McCoy

CAT A BAD...

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011 32

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rondo, Celtics on to beat Spurs

31

Minor wins doubles in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
roselyn\_monroy@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.

Minor teamed up with fellow Pacific Islands member Amanda Korinih in the doubles event.

Curtis-McDonald Wednesday

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in, was a blindingly bright day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.

In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the frosty silence emanating from the Republican side of the House was enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform to undo most of what the Democrats did in the last Congress.

Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause some 19 times but the clapping was only unanime on both sides of the aisle about five times: when she thanked her colleagues for making her the first woman speaker (the fourth application she had received), when she acknowledged Boehner's leadership, when she said that Boehner's leadership was a "great honor" and when she said that Boehner's leadership was a "great honor".

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

www.saipantribune.com

50¢

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com  
EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in, was a blindingly bright day, with hardly a cloud to mar the cobalt blue sky.

In fact, it was chillier inside the Capitol, when outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) was preparing to hand over the gavel to the new speaker, John Boehner (R-Ohio). When Pelosi began enumerating the accomplishments of the 111th Congress under her leadership, the frosty silence emanating from the Republican side of the House was enough to cause icicles to form on the ceiling. The GOP, after all, campaigned—and won—on a platform to undo most of what the Democrats did in the last Congress.

Pelosi's farewell speech was punctuated by applause some 19 times but the clapping was only unanime on both sides of the aisle about five times: when she thanked her colleagues for making her the first woman speaker (the fourth application she had received), when she acknowledged Boehner's leadership, when she said that Boehner's leadership was a "great honor" and when she said that Boehner's leadership was a "great honor".

Opinion Meter

This week's poll:  
Are you in favor of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to redefine public service and "reduce" government?

Let your voice be heard!  
Go to  
www.saipantribune.com  
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



# Lakers' road to repeat may go through Chicago

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Kobe Bryant has all that championship experience, and perhaps the NBA's best supporting cast. The Miami Heat have the promise of what LeBron James and

Dwyane Wade can deliver in their first postseason together, and the Boston Celtics think their playoff-tested group can do it again.

"You don't ever know if you're going to win a championship until you get there, but you know you have the pieces that can compete for one," Wade said. "That's where we're at right now."

But to win an NBA title, those teams may have to go past Michael Jordan.

Well, past his likeness anyway.

The Chicago Bulls, with dynamite point guard Derrick Rose, earned home-court advantage by finishing with the league's best record for the first time since Jordan ruled the NBA. Keep on winning, and the Bulls would open the finals at the United Center, with its statue of Jordan outside.

And what a story it would be if his old coach was on the opposing sideline.

Phil Jackson, who led Jordan and the Bulls to six NBA titles, is expected to retire after this season. The Lakers would love to send him off with a sixth title in Los Angeles and a remarkable fourth three-peat.

They are the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and endured a five-game losing streak late in the season. But they still have Bryant, seeking to tie Jordan with a sixth ring, and loads of interior depth with Pau Gasol, Lamar Odom and they hope a healthy Andrew Bynum.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant celebrates after making a three-point basket against the San Antonio Spurs during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

And they might be back on track after closing the regular season with two straight victories.

"Maybe we turned a corner the last two nights," Jackson said. "We can't do anything easy. We're bipolar."

The playoffs start on Saturday, with Chicago hosting Indiana in the opener. Also Saturday, the Heat play Philadelphia; Atlanta and Orlando meet in a postseason rematch, and Portland visits Dallas.

The Lakers get started Sunday against New Orleans, after West No. 1 seed San Antonio welcomes the Memphis Grizzlies. The Celtics drew the New York Knicks, in their first postseason since 2004 and confident they are dangerous with the Carmelo Anthony-Amare Stoudemire tandem; before scoring leader Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder face the new-look Denver Nuggets

in the nightcap.

The Bulls may lack the star power of some other heavyweights, but they've spent the last few months making believers of all of them. Led by Rose, perhaps the MVP favorite, Chicago went 62-20 for its best record since finishing with the same mark in 1997-98, Jordan's final season.

"Chicago's a good team and there's a reason why can they keep coming at you in waves," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said, "and they play hard."

Carlos Boozer and Joakim Noah provide a strong tandem inside and the Bulls not surprisingly were a top defensive club under coach Tom Thibodeau, the architect of the Boston defense that knocked out Wade, then James in last year's playoffs on the way to the finals.

That duo then joined Chris Bosh in Miami, and after some

early struggles and more scrutiny than any team should endure, the Heat surged into the postseason with 15 wins in their last 18 games and perhaps can still meet the expectations that were raised last July.

"All these teams we're talking about, they're all flawed. There's no perfect team to be honest with you. So if you've got two of the five best players, they are very dangerous," Hall of Famer and TNT analyst Charles Barkley said.

The two most intriguing first-round series could involve Anthony's current and former teams.

New York struggled last month as it adjusted to the trade with Denver, but won seven straight down the stretch to set up the 14th Celtics-Knicks series. Boston had its own problems since dealing center Kendrick Perkins to the Thunder, and

though the Celtics quickly put things together last year after a lackluster finish to the regular season, there's questions if they can do it again following such a major change to their roster.

Doc Rivers said his team will be ready.

"I think this is what our guys have been playing for all year," he said. "You know, when you lose a Game 7, it sticks with you and that's very difficult to get back through the regular season because the whole season you're thinking about, 'Gosh, we've got to go through 82 of these just to have a chance to get back to where we were at last year' and now all that part is gone. And now we can start trying to get back to, and finish the job."

The Nuggets went 18-7 after trading their All-Star forward along with Chauncey Billups, moving up to the No. 5 seed by getting balanced contributions throughout the roster. Oklahoma City provided a tough first-round test for the Lakers last year and believes it's better equipped to compete with the champs with Perkins patrolling the paint.

The winner of that series might have to play the Spurs, then the Lakers just to reach the finals.

"When you're in the Western Conference, if you're looking for something easy, you've come to the wrong place," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "In this conference, it's a lot different than it's been in the East. A lot of their playoff positioning has been settled for days and weeks. Out West, it's been the epitome of high-level competition all year. It's only going to be more competitive now."

The Lakers believe they can be the team to emerge from it.

"Every team we can match up with in the playoffs, especially defensively," Odom said.

## NBA BRIEFS

### Spurs' Ginobili doubtful for playoff opener

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Spurs guard Manu Ginobili is doubtful for Game 1 against Memphis after spraining his right elbow in the regular-season finale. The All-Star had an MRI exam Thursday that confirmed the sprain. Ginobili hyperextended the elbow in the first quarter of Wednesday's loss at Phoenix. The Spurs said Ginobili will be listed as doubtful for the playoff opener Sunday. San Antonio locked up the No. 1 seed in the West last week and plays the Memphis Grizzlies in the first round. Coach Gregg Popovich sat his stars Tuesday at the Los Angeles Lakers, but played them against the Suns with the goal of keeping them in a rhythm for the playoffs. The 33-year-old Ginobili averaged 17.4 points this season.

### Source: NBA fines Lakers, Jackson \$75,000 each

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A person familiar with the decision says the Los Angeles Lakers and Phil Jackson each have been fined \$75,000 for comments the coach made about collective bargaining. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Thursday because the league will not announce the fines. The two fines come a day after the league fined Lakers star Kobe Bryant \$100,000 for using a derogatory gay term in frustration over a referee's call.

## Mediation resumes in NFL, players dispute



**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—The NFL and its locked-out players started talking again, and they talked all day.

The only sign of progress or productivity, though, was the nine hours or so both sides spent in the federal courthouse on Thursday. Sworn to secrecy about specifics of the court-ordered mediation, neither the league nor the players provided much insight about where they're at in their dispute over the division of this \$9 billion business.

They'll meet again on Friday. Commissioner Roger Goodell, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, Kansas City Chiefs owner Clark Hunt, Pittsburgh Steelers owner Art Rooney and New England Patriots owner

Robert Kraft were among those on hand for the closed-door session with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith was joined by attorneys, linebackers Ben Leber and Mike Vrabel, as well as Hall of Fame defensive end Carl Eller.

"We had a full day. It was constructive to get together," said Jeff Pash, the NFL's lead negotiator. "The chief magistrate judge is working very hard, and I give him a lot of credit for really trying to move the parties toward a solution."

Neither he nor Goodell would elaborate on the day's events.

"We pledged confidentiality," the commissioner said.

Smith was mum, too.

"We'll be back tomorrow," he said as he walked away.

So how long might this go? "The court has indicated it wants to continue with everyone talking as long as it makes sense," said Michael Hausfeld, one of the attorneys for the players.

It was the first time the two sides have sat down to talk since March 11, when the collective bargaining agreement expired, the union was dissolved to clear the way for a court fight and the NFL wound up with its first work stoppage since the monthlong strike in 1987. With the lockout at 33 days and counting and the 2011 season in peril, Boylan is overseeing this round of mediation. Sixteen days of mediated sessions in Washington failed to secure a new labor pact.

Goodell stepped away from the session to join a teleconference with 5,300 Cleveland

Browns season-ticket holders for 20 minutes. He would not characterize the negotiations, which are supposed to remain confidential, but did reiterate the importance of the sides getting together.

"I can tell you that it's a positive step when the parties are talking," he said. "We saw the March 11 proposal as responsive to issues raised by the players and there are many attractive elements in it. ... Our entire focus is on getting a deal done."

Goodell said the league hopes to release its schedule for next season within the next 10 days and plans to play "a full season." Goodell also said there are no plans to use replacement players as the league did in 1987 and that the Super Bowl in Indianapolis could be pushed back one week or the two-week

gap after the conference championships could be shortened to one if necessary.

But Goodell's main message to fans was to assure them they would see the Browns play next season.

"We're going to make sure we have football, and more of it," he said.

Goodell held a similar session Wednesday with Dolphins season-ticket holders. During that call, he stressed the league's goal of keeping player costs under control and, in response to a question about financial transparency, said the NFL's disclosure has been "extraordinary." He insisted the players know "the revenue down to the penny," a reference to the union's push for the league to open the books.

"We want them to be informed," Goodell said. "We want to make sure they understand why we have the issues

that we need to address."

The mediation is the first positive step in the dispute in more than a month, but the league and players still must agree on how to divide more than \$9 billion in annual revenue.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who ordered the mediation, is still considering a request from the players to lift the lockout imposed by the owners. After an April 6 hearing, she said she planned to rule on the injunction request in a couple of weeks.

Players including MVP quarterbacks Tom Brady and Peyton Manning filed the request along with a class-action antitrust suit against the league. The lawsuit has been combined with two other similar claims from retirees, former players and rookies-to-be.

For now, at least the two sides are talking again—even though it's under a court order.



# Damon hits 2-run HR in 10th, Rays rally past Twins



**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida**

(AP)—Johnny Damon hit a two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning, giving the Tampa Bay Rays a 4-3 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday.

Carl Pavano pitched eight shutout innings for the Twins, but was denied the victory when closer Joe Nathan gave up a two-run double to Matt Joyce in the ninth.

Minnesota regained the lead in the 10th on Danny Valencia's RBI single off Kyle Farnsworth (0-1).

Sam Fuld singled with one out in Tampa Bay 10th off Matt Capps (1-1) and Damon followed with his third homer of the season, a drive into the first row of the right-field seats. A season-low crowd of 10,042 cheered Damon all around the bases.

After the game, the Twins said three-time AL batting champion Joe Mauer will be going on the 15-day disabled list because of leg weakness. The All-Star catcher had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in the offseason.

## Yankees 6, Orioles 5, 10 innings

At New York, Nick Swisher hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning as New York rallied from a five-run deficit to beat Baltimore and sweep the rain-shortened series.

After Joba Chamberlain used his big body to save a run in the eighth by blocking the plate and keeping the Yankees within 5-4, Jorge Posada led off the bottom of the ninth with a tying homer on the first pitch from closer Kevin Gregg.

Michael Gonzalez (0-1) walked Mark Teixeira and gave up a double to Alex Rodriguez to start the 10th. After Robinson Cano lined out, Swisher hit a fly and Teixeira easily beat right fielder Nick Markakis' throw home.

Mariano Rivera (1-0) gave up a lead-off single in the 10th. But Derrek Lee grounded into a double play and Vladimir Guerrero grounded out.

## Tigers 3, Athletics 0

At Oakland, California, left-hander Phil Coke and two relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Ryan Raburn hit a two-out RBI double in the seventh to break a scoreless tie as Detroit blanked Oakland.

Ramon Santiago had two hits and drove in a run on a sacrifice fly in the eighth for Detroit. Manager Jim Leyland now needs one win to become the

19th manager in major league history to reach 1,500 for his career.

The Tigers managed only four hits, matching their season low, but held on behind seven shutout innings from Coke (1-2), who struck out two.

Santiago greeted reliever Tyson Ross (1-1) with a sharp single to center and was sacrificed to second. After Casper Wells flew out to right, Raburn doubled hard off the wall in right-center. Santiago, who also singled in the fifth, scored easily.

## Royals 5, Mariners 1, 7 1/2 innings, rain

At Kansas City, Missouri, Bruce Chen pitched eight strong innings and Wilson Betemit and Alex Gordon drove in two runs each, leading Kansas City past Seattle in a rain-shortened game.

The game was called in the bottom of the eighth after a delay of 47 minutes.

Chen (2-0) evened his career record at 50-50. He gave up six hits and won his sixth straight decision going back to last season.

Gordon had a two-run double off Doug Fister (0-3) in the third inning and scored on Billy Butler's RBI single for a 3-0 lead. Betemit hit a solo home run in the fourth and added a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

## Phillies 4, Nationals 0

At Washington, Cliff Lee struck out 12 batters in a three-hit shutout, allowing the Philadelphia Phillies to overcome their own problems at the plate in a victory over the Washington Nationals.

Lee (2-1) walked one and faced 30 batters, three over the minimum. Quite a turnaround from his previous game at Atlanta last Friday, when he allowed six runs and 10 hits in 3 1-3 innings—his shortest start since Sept. 4, 2009.

This was the second night in a row that Philadelphia got a complete game: Roy Halladay did it Wednesday in a 3-2 victory at Nationals Park. The Phillies hadn't gotten consecutive complete games since May 11-12, 1999, at St. Louis, when Paul Byrd and Curt Schilling did it.

## Rockies 6, Mets 5, first game

Rockies 9, Mets 4, second game

At New York, Troy Tulowitzki belted his major league-leading seventh home run during the second game of a doubleheader to help Colorado wrap up a four-game series sweep.

Tulowitzki also homered in the opener before the Rockies' bullpen held on in a wild ninth inning. The

leaderboard, but the spotlight belonged to Na, whose meltdown on the par-4 ninth ranked among the most dreadful in PGA Tour history and sunk his chances after an otherwise impressive first round Thursday.

Adam Scott, riding the momentum of his runner-up finish at the Masters, began his defense of last year's Texas Open championship strong and was a stroke back. The Australian shot a 68 and was tied with Charley Hoffman, Jhonattan Vegas, Vaughn Taylor and Kevin Chappell.

If it wasn't for No. 9, Na might've been right there with them.

Na birdied No. 18 to go 4 under on the other 17 holes. But so dreadful was



Tampa Bay Rays' Johnny Damon flips his helmet after hitting a two-run home run off Minnesota Twins relief pitcher Matt Capps in the 10th inning of a baseball game Thursday, April 14, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

sweet-swinging shortstop terrorized New York pitching all series, going deep each game and finishing 10 for 16 with eight RBIs.

The Rockies (10-2), off to the best start in franchise history, have won five straight and 10 of 11 overall, the lone defeat coming against Pittsburgh in extra innings.

The Mets (4-9) are headed the other way, losing five straight and eight of nine.

Greg Reynolds (1-0) won Game 1 despite a couple shaky innings, and Jorge De La Rosa (2-0) held on long enough in the second game for the Rockies' offense to deliver his win.

## Cardinals 9, Dodgers 5

At Los Angeles, Albert Pujols homered

for the second time this season and Matt Holliday drove in three runs and scored twice for St. Louis.

Jaime Garcia (2-0) allowed three runs—two earned—and five hits in five innings, struck out two and walked two. The left-hander had only allowed one run in his two previous starts.

Hiroki Kuroda (2-1) gave up 10 hits and six runs—five earned—in five innings, struck out three and threw a career-high three wild pitches in the Dodgers' third straight loss.

Pujols sent a 3-2 pitch from Kuroda into the lower left field seats with one out in the fifth, extending the Cardinals' lead to 5-3.

Matt Kemp had two RBIs and three hits, including a homer in the ninth,

and Jamey Carroll had three hits for the Dodgers.

## Brewers 4, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Randy Wolf had 10 strikeouts and allowed only three hits in 6 2-3 shutout innings to lead Milwaukee to its fourth straight win and seventh in eight games.

Wolf (1-2) allowed only two singles, a double and two walks, and didn't allow a Pittsburgh runner to advance past second base. John Axford allowed a run on two walks, a single and a wild pitch in the ninth to prevent Milwaukee's second consecutive shutout.

Price Fielder had a run-scoring single in the first—his National League-leading 15th RBI—and Yuniesky Betancourt added a sacrifice fly. The Brewers added two in the ninth off Joel Hanrahan.

## Marlins 6, Braves 5

At Atlanta, John Buck drove in the go-ahead run with a seventh-inning single to help Florida win its second straight road series.

Buck was 0 for 9 in the series before driving in Gaby Sanchez from second base with the single off Eric O'Flaherty (0-1) to break a 5-5 tie.

The Marlins have won two of three in both Houston and Atlanta for a successful start to their nine-game road trip, which shifts to Philadelphia on Friday.

Sanchez had two hits, including his first homer. Logan Morrison had a two-run double and Hanley Ramirez was on base five times with three hits, including an RBI single, and two walks.

Brian McCann hit a three-run home run and Dan Uggla also homered for Atlanta.

## Astros 1, Padres 0

At Houston, Bud Norris and the Houston bullpen combined on a three-hitter, and Michael Bourn singled home the only run.

Norris (1-1) gave up two hits and struck out seven in six innings. He retired nine of the last 10 batters he faced, and his sacrifice bunt in the bottom of the sixth set up Bourn's RBI hit off Dustin Moseley (0-3).

Relievers Fernando Abad, Mark Melancon and Brandon Lyon combined to close out the win. Lyon pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Moseley allowed seven hits in 6 2-3 innings and once again was the victim of the Padres' poor run support.

The Padres had several chances to score and stranded seven runners.

# Cink, Henry lead Texas Open after Na's meltdown



**SANANTONIO**

(AP)—Kevin Na watched his first shot on No. 9 veer badly off course. His next stroke wasn't any better. Or the next one. Or the 11 after that.

Or maybe it was 12. Thirteen? Na himself couldn't keep track.

"I got done with the hole and I said (to my caddie), 'I think I made somewhere between a 10 and a 15,'" Na said. "But I think it's close to a 15."

Try 16.

J.J. Henry and former British Open champion Stewart Cink shot 5-under 67s to begin the Texas Open atop the

leaderboard, but the spotlight belonged to Na, whose meltdown on the par-4 ninth ranked among the most dreadful in PGA Tour history and sunk his chances after an otherwise impressive first round Thursday.

Adam Scott, riding the momentum of his runner-up finish at the Masters, began his defense of last year's Texas Open championship strong and was a stroke back. The Australian shot a 68 and was tied with Charley Hoffman, Jhonattan Vegas, Vaughn Taylor and Kevin Chappell.

If it wasn't for No. 9, Na might've been right there with them.

Na birdied No. 18 to go 4 under on the other 17 holes. But so dreadful was

No. 9 that the score was adjusted three times—first a 14, then 15, and finally, following a lengthy review of a video replay before signing his scorecard, it changed yet again to a 16.

He wound up signing an 8-over 80.

The worst single-hole score at a PGA Tour event belongs to John Daly, who had an 18 on the par-5 sixth hole at Bay Hill in 1998. Ray Ainsley took 19 shots on the par-4 16th hole at Cherry Hills in the 1938 U.S. Open.

Scott and Geoff Ogilvy, who finished the round two strokes back at 3 under, were in the group behind Na. They watched and waited to tee off as the 27-year-old hacked, whiffed and bumbled his way through a

nearly 20-minute ordeal.

"There's some rocks in there and some pretty nasty stuff," Ogilvy said of the 474-yard ninth. "You don't have to do a whole lot wrong to have three or four attempts to try and get it out. It becomes a comedy of errors sometimes."

Even Na was smiling by the time he tapped in a 6-footer on the green.

"It's all a blur," Na said.

Here's what he does remember: his tee shot that sailed into the woods, where Na eventually found the ball. He called it unplayable and teed off again, but not with better results. Along the way he whiffed one stroke, ricocheted another off his in-

ner thigh, tried two shots left-handed and watched the ball barely sputter forward on another stroke.

All while still in the woods.

"One bad hole can basically shoot you out of the tournament," Na said. "That's what I just did."

Having a far better day was Cink, who didn't decide to play at the Texas Open until he missed the cut at the Masters. He signed up 2 1/2 hours after the deadline.

The 2009 British Open winner was glad he did, shooting a bogey-free first round.

"I didn't really feel like I would go forward by taking another week off," Cink said. "So I decided to add this one and just, you know, get right back to it instead of missing the cut at a major for another week."



**TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**

**MLB STANDINGS**

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	4	.636	—
Baltimore	6	5	.545	1
Toronto	6	6	.500	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	4	8	.333	3 1/2
Boston	2	9	.182	5
Central Division				
Cleveland	8	4	.667	—
Kansas City	8	4	.667	—
Chicago	7	5	.583	1
Detroit	6	7	.462	2 1/2
Minnesota	4	8	.333	4
West Division				
Texas	9	3	.750	—
Los Angeles	7	5	.583	2
Oakland	6	7	.462	3 1/2
Seattle	4	9	.308	5 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	9	3	.750	—
Florida	7	5	.583	2
Washington	5	7	.417	4
Atlanta	5	8	.385	4 1/2
New York	4	9	.308	5 1/2
Central Division				
Cincinnati	8	4	.667	—
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	1
Chicago	6	6	.500	2
St. Louis	6	7	.462	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	5	7	.417	3
Houston	4	9	.308	4 1/2
West Division				
Colorado	10	2	.833	—
San Francisco	6	6	.500	4
Los Angeles	6	7	.462	4 1/2
Arizona	5	6	.455	4 1/2
San Diego	5	7	.417	5

**Yesterday's Games**  
Colorado 6, N.Y. Mets 5st game  
Colorado 9, N.Y. Mets 4nd game  
Milwaukee 4, Pittsburgh 1  
Philadelphia 4, Washington 0  
Florida 6, Atlanta 5  
Houston 1, San Diego 0  
St. Louis 9, L.A. Dodgers 5  
Thursday's Games  
Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 3, 10 innings  
N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 5, 10 innings  
Kansas City 5, Seattle 1 innings  
Detroit 3, Oakland 0

**TEXAS OPEN SCORES**

**SAN ANTONIO** (AP)—Scores Thursday from the \$6.2 million Texas Open, played on the par-72 (36-36), 7,435-yard TPC San Antonio

FIRST ROUND	
J.J. Henry	34-33—67
Stewart Cink	34-33—67
Charley Hoffman	35-33—68
Jhonattan Vegas	34-34—68
Vaughn Taylor	34-34—68
Kevin Chappell	37-31—68
Adam Scott	35-33—68
Troy Matteson	36-33—69
Kevin Streelman	36-33—69
Jim Herman	34-35—69
Brendan Steele	35-34—69
Geoff Ogilvy	36-33—69
Brandt Snedeker	37-32—69
Dean Wilson	36-34—70
J.B. Holmes	35-35—70
Joseph Bramlett	37-33—70
Martin Piller	36-34—70
Bobby Gates	34-36—70
Kevin Stadler	34-36—70
Frank Lickliter II	37-33—70
Chris Kirk	35-35—70
Tag Ridings	31-39—70
Aron Price	36-34—70
Jeff Maggert	36-35—71
Blake Adams	35-36—71
Carl Paulson	39-32—71
Brian Gay	36-35—71
Ryan Palmer	35-36—71
Bill Lunde	35-36—71
Johnson Wagner	34-37—71
Charles Howell III	36-35—71
John Senden	34-37—71
Scott Stallings	36-35—71
Billy Horschel	34-37—71
Kris Blanks	35-36—71
Rich Beem	35-36—71
Steve Flesch	36-35—71

Briny Baird	35-36—71
Angel Cabrera	33-38—71
Arjun Atwal	36-35—71
Bob Estes	34-37—71
Pat Perez	35-36—71
Michael Sim	36-35—71
Kevin Sutherland	35-36—71
Paul Goydos	35-36—71
Chad Campbell	34-37—71
Michael Putnam	36-35—71
Peter Tomasulo	37-34—71
David Hearn	34-37—71
Cameron Tringale	35-36—71
Kent Jones	36-36—72
Steve Elkington	36-36—72
Fredrik Jacobson	38-34—72
Cameron Beckman	38-34—72
Derek Lamely	36-36—72
John Rollins	37-35—72
Chris DiMarco	36-36—72
Brendon de Jonge	34-38—72
Tim Petrovic	35-37—72
D.J. Brigman	34-38—72
Michael Thompson	38-34—72
Shaun Micheel	33-39—72
Ryuji Imada	34-38—72
Martin Laird	35-37—72
John Merrick	36-36—72
Josh Teater	37-35—72
Billy Mayfair	33-39—72
Fabian Gomez	37-35—72
Zack Miller	36-36—72
Jim Renner	36-36—72
Joe Affrunti	35-37—72
Woody Austin	36-37—73
Ricky Barnes	38-35—73
J.P. Hayes	37-36—73
Justin Leonard	37-36—73
Anthony Kim	38-35—73
Rocco Mediate	37-36—73
Ben Martin	36-37—73
Jesper Parnevik	37-36—73
Spencer Levin	37-36—73
Bryce Molder	36-37—73
Michael Connell	38-35—73
Nick O'Hern	35-38—73
Scott McCarron	35-38—73
Keegan Bradley	37-36—73
Andres Gonzales	40-33—73
Colt Knost	38-35—73
Parker LaBarge	38-35—73
Matt Every	36-37—73
William McGirt	35-38—73
Garth Mulroy	39-34—73
Roland Thatcher	39-35—74
Chris Riley	39-35—74
Matt Jones	38-36—74
James Driscoll	36-38—74
Tommy Gainey	40-34—74
Chez Reavie	37-37—74
Robert Gamez	34-40—74
Jarrold Lyle	37-37—74
Marc Turnesa	37-37—74
Anders Hansen	37-37—74
Chris Stroud	37-37—74
Bo Van Pelt	38-37—75
David Duval	37-38—75
Brandt Jobe	39-36—75
Hunter Haas	40-35—75
Alexandre Rocha	39-36—75
Tim Herron	36-39—75
Richard S. Johnson	37-38—75
Nathan Green	38-37—75
Scott Verplank	37-38—75
Jimmy Walker	38-37—75
Paul Stankowski	36-39—75
Jeff Klauk	37-39—76
Will Strickler	38-38—76
Michael Arnaud	37-39—76
Eric Axley	36-40—76
Joe Ogilvie	38-38—76
Scott Gordon	37-39—76
Scott Gutschewski	39-37—76
David Mathis	38-38—76
Harrison Frazar	39-38—77
Ted Purdy	36-41—77
Chris Smith	36-41—77
Justin Hicks	37-40—77
Nate Smith	39-38—77
Marc Leishman	38-39—77
Omar Uresti	38-39—77
Steven Bowditch	37-40—77
Chris Baryl	39-38—77
Alex Prugh	39-39—78
Bio Kim	36-42—78
Duffy Waldorf	41-37—78
Garrett Willis	41-37—78
Kyle Stanley	37-41—78
Mike Weir	41-38—79
Sunghoon Kang	41-38—79
Jim Jeong	43-36—79
Jerod Turner	41-38—79
Brad Lardon	40-40—80
Kevin Na	47-33—80
Kevin Kisner	42-40—82
Matt McQuillan	42-40—82
Daniel Summerhays	43-40—83

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# BANMI, Masters group welcome Ada Gym repairs

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands welcomed the renovation of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, but hopes the facility will be maintained after the repairs.

“This is the peak season for all sports, but the Ada Gym is finally getting a badly needed facelift which I have no problem with,” BANMI vice president and national development coach Elias Rangamar in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

“My concern is with maintenance after and the constant lack

of janitorial work and toiletry supplies that the facility always seem to lack. The sports office needs help as it lacks the funding and manpower to maintain and uphold the facility. It’s like buying a car but then you don’t have the money to buy gas and oil,” Rangamar added.

The Ada Gym will be closed beginning at the end of this month until September to undergo repairs and BANMI is one of the organizations that will be affected by the temporary closure. The association used the facility last week for the first series of tryouts for the two CNMI teams that will compete in a tourna-

ment in Palau next year. BANMI also has the annual Rotary youth caging, which in the past years opens either in August or September.

“I guess we’ll just have to look at other alternatives for the tryouts, like outdoor courts,” Rangamar said when asked where will they hold the tryouts next month.

Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands is also pleased with the renovation of the Ada Gym and hopes that after the repairs, they will be playing in a better facility.

“We hope they can fixed the ventilation problem and also

the roofing for the safely of the players, especially us, Masters,” MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama said. “The renovation is long overdue and we hope that it will run out well.”

Lizama added once the repairs are completed in September, they will start their 35A caging, which was originally set to kick off later this month.

“For now, we will advised our members to stay in shape and prepare for the 35A league,” Lizama said.

The Ada Gym is one of the facilities listed in the CNMI’s bid documents for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

## RJ

From Page 28

to *Saipan Tribune*, members of the CNMI golf community, and supporters.

To be accepted on the team, players must have a GPA of 3.2 or higher. An impressive performance in various tournaments and involvement in community service (at least 40 hours) are also required. Once a member, a junior golfer gets

education and year-round mentoring and tutoring programs. He or she also competes in various tournaments the foundation organized.

Macaranas was informed about his acceptance on the team last Saturday.

“Your application was fantastic and you definitely embody qualities we look for in a team member. Your achievements on and off the course are impressive and we look forward to

watching you continue to excel,” said Stacy Stark, director of the foundation’s tournament services.

“The Foundation emphasizes education as the most important aspect for your future. The TWFNJGT motto ‘Great people who happen to be Great Golfers’ embodies everything you are. We are proud to have you represent the Tiger Woods Foundation and look forward to seeing you this summer,” Stark

added in his letter.

With his acceptance on the team, Maracanas will join the group in a tournament in San Diego, California.

“I will be tested this time to speak at the team banquet about my volunteer service to the community. In my application, the CNMI played a big part of my golf experience, even the one volunteer service opportunity I had with Beautify CNMI,” Macaranas said.

## IP&E

From Page 28

Jets’ Franklin Lizama (11-for-23, 0.478), McDonalds’ George Pangelinan (11-for-23, 0.478), Attorney Robert T. Torres-Kagman Little Legals’ Jessie Kalen (9-for-21, 0.428), Jets’ Nathan Camacho (9-for-22, 0.409), and Enforcers’ Jack Saralu (11-for-31, 0.393) round out the Top 15 in batting in the age group, which is based in at least 10 at bats.

Henry Lizama, meanwhile, has hammered home a league-leading 17 RBIs, two ahead of Cedric Camacho with Rep. Joseph P. DLGuerreo-Tan Siu Lin-Mike P. Tenorio Dandan Comets’ Roke Tenorio (12) in the chase.

Lizama is also tied with Ce-

dric Camacho in triples with four apiece, one ahead of Kalen.

Moreover, with 19 runs scored, Lizama is currently ahead of Enforcers’ Shakobe Rangamar and Celis by a run this season with Aguon (16) close behind. Aguon leads the league in doubles with five, while eight others are tied with four apiece.

Tenorio has smashed four homeruns in just seven games to best three others with two apiece.

Nathan Camacho and teammate Franko Nakamura along with the Red Sox duo of Jonathan Camacho and Jadrien Camacho have maintained perfect 0.00 earned run average so far this season.

Nathan Camacho has pitched

17 shutout innings compared to Nakamura and Jonathan Camacho’s 12 and Jadrien Camacho’s 11. Notably, Enforcers’ Ethan Lizama has allowed just one run in 18 frames for a solid 0.33 ERA.

The Comets’ Erik Cruz has struck out a brow-raising 59 batters so far this season and leads a strong field composed of Twins’ Jun Atalig (52), Rays’ J.D. Delos Santos (51), Joyner (45), Secharmidal (42), and Nathan Camacho (39). Statistics were based on at least 11 innings pitched.

card thanks to their pair of aces on the mound.

Enforcers (9-1) and Red Sox (7-1) are sitting strong in second and third places, followed by the Rays and IP&E Strikers at 5-3.

A game behind them sit the Twins and Docomo A’s at 4-3, while the Comets are at .500 with a 4-4 record.

The bottom end of the standings include IT&E (3-4), Ol’Aces (3-5), Natibu Tanapag Falcons (2-3), Little Legals (2-8), McDonald’s (1-6), and the Natibu Tanapag Braves (0-7).

Since mid-March, the *Saipan Tribune* has made numerous attempts to obtain results of Majors League games, but the scoring official has yet to make them available to the media.

## Jets zoom to lead in Majors

Juan S. Tenorio Jets still lead the Major League standings with a perfect 7-0 win-loss

## OL’ACES

From Page 28

The Hunters scored their only run of the match in the bottom frame off a double by Joe Palacios, but Ol’Aces mustered the two runs needed to put the run-rule intact and the team held on in the bottom frame for the win.

Niko Masga luffed off and reached off an error and was tripled home by Camacho and Leonard Sablan drove Camacho home in the next at bat. Hunters left a man at third in their final stand.

Winning pitcher Sablan allowed an unearned run off three hits with eight strikeouts in five

innings. Ol’Aces’ Camacho batted 3-for-4 with a triple, three RBIs, three runs, and a stolen base. Reyes swung 2-for-4 with a triple, three RBIs, and a run.

## SENIOR LEAGUE

### Ol’Aces 10, Hunters 8

Ol’Aces took an early 2-0 lead off a two-RBI single by Jacob Flores at the start of the first inning.

Later in the bottom of the second, the Hunters tied the game off an error and a triple by Palmerson Mongkeya, but Ol’Aces pulled ahead, 3-2, in the top of the third off an RBI base rip by T.J. Sablan.

Hunters came up empty in the bottom frame and Ol’Aces

jumped ahead, 6-2, in the top half of the fourth. After the first run came home off an error, A.J. Lizama and Frankie Camacho each delivered RBI singles.

Hunters then managed a pair of runs in the bottom frame off an error and a base rip by Ian Lizama and pulled within a run, 5-6, in the bottom of the fifth off an error.

After a quiet sixth inning, Ol’Aces added a run off a walk with the bases loaded in the top of the seventh, but the Hunters tied the game at 7-all in the final inning of regulation.

The first two batters reached off errors that set up a clutch two-RBI base rip by Mongkeya.

He, however, was later gunned down at the plate when he attempted to steal home.

Ol’Aces’ made a three-run statement at the start of the eighth inning. Their first two batters reached off a walk and an error, which set up a huge two-RBI triple by Phil Lituimar; Davey Matagolai later doubled him home.

The Hunters loaded the bases and managed a run in the bottom frame off a balk, but the Ol’Aces scrambled and held it together in the end.

Ol’Aces’ Lituimar showed up big for his team at the plate in the late innings and swung 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

## SAIPAN

From Page 28

the Northern Marianas Badminton Association this year.

Hannah Choi delivered two championships for SBC. She teamed up with Toshiko Obata in beating Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome in the women’s A doubles finals and then partnered with Dick Guintu in

downing Andrew Galvez and Angie Ito in the women’s A mixed doubles title game.

Gary Bandoja and Oh Imbog also won for SBC when they prevailed over clubmates Mario Diola and Narlo Achas in the men’s B doubles finals. SBC bets also took the women’s B doubles crown after So Young Lee and Heo In Souk defeated Cristy Villafior and Gigi Zapanta.

Besides the four championships, five other SBC teams made it to playoffs of the doubles tournament.

In the men’s A doubles, Diola and Guintu advanced to the semis and eventually moved into the finals where they lost to Shirley’s BC’s Ferdie Arago and Jerry Hibi.

In the mixed B doubles, Bandoja and Souk gained Final

Four entry and settled for fourth place after bowing to Jojo and Jen Savellano in the consolation game. In the women’s C doubles, SBC’s Hwang Meong and Angela Park also finished fourth.

In the mixed C doubles, two SBC teams broke into the Final Four. Lee Choon Hee and Kimbo Ranah made it to the finals, but lost to Luis Camacho and Elna Curate, while Oh An Yeol

and Meong won the battle for third place.

Meanwhile, Shirley’s BC and United Knights were the second most successful clubs in the tournament with their two championships apiece.

Hibi and Arago of the men’s A doubles and Hibi and Lampera of mixed B doubles gave Shirley’s the two titles, while Father Charlie Borja and Jerome Mala-

sarte of men’s C doubles and women’s C doubles Windy Fernandez and Chris Obaldo won for United Knights.

Taga had only one championship in the tournament, courtesy of the tandem of Curate and Camacho.

Other clubs that joined the tournament were Berks Blazers, Golden Raquet Badminton Club, and Extreme Pirates.





Damon hits 2-run  
HR in 10th, Rays  
rally past Twins

Page 26

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Lakers' road to  
repeat may go  
through Chicago

Page 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

## RJ makes Tiger junior team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Here's another good news for CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas. Several weeks after earning tickets to three world championships, the 12-year-old golfer gained a spot on the Tiger Woods Foundation National Junior Golf Team.

"I am grateful to represent the CNMI at three world championships this year and I am also fortunate to be a new member of the Tiger Woods Foundation Junior National Golf Team. I consider [it] an academic achievement to be selected in this advertised national scholastic competition. Only 15 awards are guaranteed, so one can imagine how competitive it is," Macaranas wrote in his email

See RJ on Page 27



## Saipan Badminton Club excels

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Badminton Club players clinched four of the nine championships in the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition, making SBC the most successful group since the inception of club system in See SAIPAN on Page 27

Saipan Badminton Club's Heo In Souk goes for a return near the net, while teammate Gary Bandoja stands by at the backline during their playoff game against Michelle Caleon and Noli Santos in the mixed B doubles division of the Tan Holdings tournament early this month at the REM Center Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



R.J. Macaranas, seen here in a file photo during a practice round, has been accepted to the Tiger Woods Foundation National Junior Golf Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## IP&E Strikers' Celis leads Major League in batting

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

IP&E Strikers' Perry Celis is leading the Major Division of the 2011 Saipan Little League season batting race after posting an astonishing 0.727 average at the plate.

As of April 11, Celis has gone 16-for-22 in his at bats to pace the 9- to 12-year-olds in the category.

Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Jonathan Camacho and JPO Enforcers' Cedric Camacho complete the Top 3 in batting with 0.636 (14-for-22) and 0.636 (21-for-33) averages, respectively.

YCO Ray's Peterson Rengiil (14-for-23, 0.608), Red Sox's Craig Aguon (18-for-30, 0.600), Strikers' Juden Joyner (16-for-27, 0.592), Happy Market Ol'Aces' Allen Cepeda (15-for-26, 0.576), Enforcers' Henry Lizama (17-for-30, 0.566), Jets' Thomas Dela Cruz (11-for-21/0.523), Ol'Aces' Virgil Secharimal (11-for-21, 0.523), See IP&E on Page 27



JPO Enforcers' Cedric Camacho blasts a homerun against IP&E in last Sunday's Major League game at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield. Camacho is currently second in batting in the age group with a 0.636 average.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

## Ol'Aces sweep Hunters in Big, Senior leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Docomo Ol'Aces chopped up the JC Marketing-Toothworks Hunters, 11-1, in five innings as the Big League of the 2011 Saipan Little League season continued Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The team from Oleai strengthened its hold of third place in the six-team division with its sixth win in eight games, even as the Hunters are still in search of their first win in seven tries.

In Senior League play, CTS Ol'Aces fended off a game-tying uprising by the St. Michael's Hunters

at the end of regulation and took the match, 10-8, in 10 innings also last Monday.

The win was the fifth in eight outings for the Senior Ol'Aces, while the Hunters' Senior League record fell to 4-6.

## BIG LEAGUE Ol'Aces 11, Hunters 1

Ol'Aces took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second off an RBI single by Diego Camacho, who later stole home.

Teammate Rocco Reyes then belted an RBI single in the top of the third, while the Hunters endured a third 1-2-3 inning in the bottom frame.

In the top of the fourth, Ol'Aces trudged ahead, 9-0. The first three batters reached and scored off two hits and some errors. Then after an out and a walk, Reyes smashed a two-RBI triple before being driven home by Mike Manas.

See OL'ACES on Page 27